

Governor's Proposal to Eliminate Dialysis Services Defeated

Thanks in part to the advocacy efforts of the National Kidney Foundation, the state Budget Conference Committee has defeated a proposed budget cut which would have eliminated coverage for lifesaving dialysis treatments for a number of patients in California.

The elimination of dialysis services for a segment of the dialysis population not covered by Medicare were proposed in late May by Governor Schwarzenegger as part of his plan to close California's growing budget shortfall. In response, NKF contacted members of the Budget Conference Committee, educating them on the life and death stakes involved in the proposed measures and questioning the validity of potential savings related to the cuts. To see a copy of NKF's letter to Committee Chair Noreen Evans, outlining the Foundation's position, please [click here](#).

On Monday June 8th, the Committee voted to strike down the proposed cuts. The decision was significant in that it was one of the few cuts in the Governor's plan to be defeated outright at this stage of the debate. "Ensuring that coverage remains constant for all dialysis patients in California is paramount," said NKF Division President Chris Kelley, "there is no gray area when it comes to this essential, lifesaving treatment. We are grateful that the Committee recognized the gravity of this issue and voted to preserve coverage."

The NKF would like to extend its appreciation to Assemblymembers Noreen Evans, Bob Blumenfield and Kevin De Leon; and Senators Denise Ducheny, Mark Leno and Alan Lowenthal for their opposition to these cuts.

For more information on this issue; the ongoing budget debate and its potential impact on kidney patients; or to learn how you can become involved in the NKF's Legislative advocacy efforts in California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Alaska, please contact Robert Griffin at 415-543-3303 x 108 or Robert.griffin@kidney.org.