



## **Improve Patient Care and Quality for Dialysis Patients** **Support AB 1223 and AB 1448**

With 33,000 dialysis patient members, over 4,000 of whom reside in California, Dialysis Patient Citizens (DPC) is the nation's largest patient-led organization representing individuals with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). There are 70,000 ESRD patients in California

**AB 1448 (Gray) The Dialysis Patient Quality of Care Assurance Act of 2019** would improve quality standards at certain dialysis facilities. Specifically, it would require the State Department of Public Health to inspect each licensed chronic dialysis clinic that receives a 1- or 2-star quality rating as determined by CMS under the Five-Star Quality Rating System at least once per calendar year, until the clinic attains at least a 3-star rating. It would also require the department to conduct any additional inspection that the department deems necessary to ensure the continuation of high-quality medical care for dialysis patients.

The bill would require the department to assess a supplemental license fee on dialysis clinics in order to conduct the inspections, beginning January 1, 2020. While 3 out of 4 dialysis patients feel they are receiving excellent care at their dialysis facility (based on DPC's 2018 Annual Membership Survey), we believe there is always room for improvement. AB 1448 is a commonsense proposal which would ensure dialysis facilities are meeting high quality standards and improve the overall experience for dialysis patients.

**AB 1223 (Arambula)** would improve access to kidney transplants for patients by strengthening protections for living organ donors. Existing law requires a private employer to permit an employee to take a leave of absence with pay, not exceeding 30 business days in a one-year period, for the purpose of organ donation. Existing law also requires a public employer to permit a public employee to take a similar paid leave of absence for organ donation, if the employee has exhausted all available sick leave.

AB 1223 would require a private or public employer to grant an employee an additional unpaid leave of absence, not exceeding 30 business days in a one-year period, for the purpose of organ donation. The bill would also require a public employee to first exhaust all available sick leave before taking that unpaid leave.

Transplantation is the ideal option for most dialysis patients; however, many patients must wait years for a kidney to become available. In fact, the average wait time for dialysis patients to receive a transplant is 4.2 years (based on DPC's 2018 patient survey) but for some patients can be much longer – 26% of our patients have had to wait 6-10 years. AB 1223 would encourage more people to become a living donor and help our patients get access to more transplantations.

**About Dialysis Patient Citizens (DPC):** With more than 30,000 dialysis and pre-dialysis patients making up our membership, DPC is working to improve the quality of life for all dialysis patients through advocacy and education. We are a nationwide, non-profit, patient led organization. Our policies and our mission are guided solely by our membership.