



*"As the President of this amazing patient-led advocacy organization, where all of my Board colleagues are individuals with end-stage renal disease (ESRD), I want to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for your continued support in helping us elevate the patient voice with policy makers. I also want to share some of the highlights of what we have been able to accomplish together in 2021 to help improve dialysis patients' quality of life."*

**Andrew Conkling**  
President, DPC Board



## Accomplishments for Dialysis Patient Citizens in 2021

### Secured introduction of bi-partisan Medigap legislation in Congress - H.R. 1676



The Jack Reynolds Memorial Medigap Expansion Act was introduced by Reps. Axne (D-IA) and Herrera Beutler (R-WA) and would ensure all ESRD patients have access to Medigap.

### Launched new state Medigap Scorecard



DPC released a comprehensive state Medigap Report Card, which highlights the variance in Medigap coverage among states and emphasizes current gaps in access and affordability of Medigap coverage for ESRD patients under age 65. Our interactive web map allows patients and policy makers to check Medigap coverage within each state and to learn what, if any, protections currently exist.

### Commissioned impartial actuarial analysis on the potential cost of Medigap expansion



DPC commissioned a federal and state-level actuarial study that analyzed Medicare Claims Data, state-specific Medigap rules and other pertinent data sources to provide an anticipated cost-impact of Medigap expansion to ESRD patients under age 65. The Health Management Associates report is an essential and effective advocacy tool as DPC works to gain legislative support for expanding access to Medigap.

### Continued advocacy efforts for more care coordination opportunities for patients



The BETTER Kidney Care Act (H.R. 4942/S. 2649) was reintroduced and would establish a new care coordination model for dialysis patients to help them manage their care, and potentially provide additional benefits such as transportation and dental services.

### Organized record "virtual" fly-in



The ongoing pandemic required us to hold a virtual rather than in-person advocacy day in Washington, DC to keep patients safe. Despite these ongoing obstacles, we successfully secured 165 meetings with Members of Congress and their staff for 156 participants from 38 states.

### Expanded state advocacy efforts



DPC state advocacy staff, along with our Patient Ambassadors, actively engaged state lawmakers on dozens of bills in multiple states to provide more support for kidney disease patients and secure passage on Medigap enhancements, living donor protections and kidney disease prevention efforts.

### Launched Community Health Worker demonstration effort to support dialysis patients



Leveraging Illinois legislation that provides reimbursement for and certification of Community Health Workers (CHW), DPC initiated a task force with coalition partners to develop a specialty CHW pathway designed to provide kidney failure education to communities and transform the lives of pre-dialysis and dialysis patients by supporting their transition to home dialysis and transplant.

### Increased DPC Membership, Patient Ambassadors and Partners-in-Care to record levels



DPC leveraged new social media and grassroots outreach strategies to grow our membership to over 30,000 individuals. We also expanded our Partners-in-Care program to over 5,000 health professionals, and increased our Patient Ambassador program to over 1,000 advocates.

### Elevated the patient voice through volunteer participation in several public policy working groups



DPC patient leaders served on advisory bodies, including: CMS technical expert panels, KCQA workgroups, and the Colorado Kidney Disease Prevention and Education Task Force, and also spoke at two virtual conferences convened by CDC.

### Secured unprecedented media coverage



This year we secured publication of 36 Letters to the Editor and 13 Op-eds from ESRD patients across 59 media outlets helping to further elevate the patient voice.

### Increased website traffic



By continuing to provide updated content and relevant resources, both the DPC and DPC Education Center websites continue to see the number of visitors increase each year.

### Launched new patient support group



The DPC Education Center launched a telephone support group in March 2021. Facilitated by a long-term kidney patient and guest speakers who are experts in their field, these calls provide much needed support, information and resources to individuals with kidney disease.

### Expanded educational resources for the underserved



The DPC Education Center's reach to Spanish-speaking patients increased by over 180% the past year. We also developed an online course for parents of children with kidney disease and provided resources to patients who have rare disorders through our patient newsletter and website.