



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kidneys For Communities Receives Congressional Tribute for Its Contribution to First Responders and Other Communities

--Congressman Steny H. Hoyer delivers comments to Congress during March's National Kidney Month--

Washington, DC, March 5, 2026 — [Kidneys for Communities](#), a national nonprofit dedicated to increasing access to life-saving kidney transplants through community-directed living donation, received a Congressional tribute given by Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) for the organization's significant contribution to the country's first responders and other communities. Congressman Steny's [comments](#) were delivered at the start of National Kidney Month (March).

In his comments, Hoyer states that Kidneys for Communities has "done a terrific job supporting this effort to ensure our firefighters and other first responders receive the support they need. Kidney disease affects tens of millions of Americans in every neighborhood, town, city, district, and state in the nation. It demands the attention of every Member of this Congress."

"We are honored to receive such noteworthy recognition from Congressman Hoyer and thank him for his ongoing support," said Atul Agnihotri, CEO of Kidneys for Communities and a kidney transplant recipient himself. "While our work is most recognized during National Kidney Month, we strive throughout the year to bring life-saving kidney transplants to first responders, children, people in agricultural communities and other social groups in need."

Congressman Hoyer has been a champion for firefighters, law enforcement and other first responders. He has fought to ensure that these brave men and women are provided with adequate resources to keep communities safe and has worked to address the quality-of-life issues that are unique to those who protect us.

Congressman Hoyer helped establish the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, which helps equip and train local fire and EMS departments throughout the country. Over \$15 million has been awarded to Fifth District fire departments since the program's creation in 2001. He also helped establish the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program, which enables career and volunteer fire departments to hire new firefighters, recruit and retain volunteers, and provide relief to the thousands of local fire stations across the country short of staff.

About Kidneys for Communities

Kidneys for Communities is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives by increasing access to kidney transplants through living donation. The organization partners with communities, employers, municipalities, and first responder organizations to educate, support, and connect donors and recipients, increasing the likelihood that a life-saving kidney can be directed to a fellow community member in need. Addressing the national shortage of living kidney donors through proactive outreach, Kidneys for Communities developed the first-ever national community-directed donation program, which unlocks connections within membership-based communities and expands the impact of paired kidney exchange. To learn more or find out how to help first responders in need of a kidney transplant, visit [their website](#).

About National Kidney Month

Kidney disease is the ninth leading cause of death in the U.S. Major risks include diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and obesity. National Kidney Month, observed every March in the U.S., raises awareness about kidney disease, which affects over 37 million American adults. It highlights the importance of early detection and prevention, as many people are unaware they have the condition until it is advanced. Key focus areas include managing risks like diabetes and high blood pressure, promoting healthy lifestyles, and increasing organ donation awareness.

Media Contact:

Stacey Doss, APR

PR Director

COHN Marketing

949-285-2362

stacey.doss@cohnmarketing.com

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HONORING KIDNEYS FOR COMMUNITIES
THIS NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH
HON. STENY H. HOYER OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Mr. HOYER. “Mr. Speaker, March is National Kidney Month - a fitting time to pay tribute to an organization that has not only changed lives but saved them by expanding access to kidney transplants from living donors: Kidneys for Communities.

With a special focus on aiding first responders, children, and people in agricultural communities, Kidneys for Communities developed the first-ever national community-directed donation program. It helps educate and connect donors and recipients by leveraging its massive network of communities, employers, municipalities, and first responder organizations.

At a time when we face a national kidney shortage, with some 100,000 Americans needing a kidney at any given moment but only an average of 6,500 living kidney donations made each year, this type of proactive outreach has never been more important.

As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am particularly grateful for the organization’s Kidneys for First Responders initiative. I thank the entire team at Kidneys for Communities for their work not only this month but year-round. They have done a terrific job supporting this effort to ensure our firefighters and other first responders receive the support they need. Kidney disease affects tens of millions of Americans in every neighborhood, town, city, district, and state in the Nation. It demands the attention of every Member of this Congress.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Kidneys for Communities for making America a healthier, stronger Nation.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steny Hoyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.