



Opinion

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Allow charitable aid for kidney disease

Kidney disease affects as many as 700,000 Americans, and that number continues to grow. To afford medical insurance and ensure access to essential treatment, patients sometimes rely on charitable financial assistance. I am one of those patients.

When I was just 20 years old, I learned that I was born with one kidney instead of two, and my kidney was already 75 percent damaged. After 13 years of managing kidney disease, I had to go on dialysis. I then needed additional treatment after a kidney transplant failed. No longer able to work, I watched my family's savings shrink because of my health care costs.

Thankfully, I was able to find a lifeline in the form of premium assistance offered by the nonprofit American Kidney Fund. I honestly don't know what my family would have done without this safety net.

Health insurance companies have recently been lobbying the government so they can block kidney patients from being able to use charitable assistance. Charitable assistance provides an important lifeline for patients when we need it.

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