

Don't abandon people with kidney disease

Linda Myers Feb 10, 2017  (0)

    

I am calling on government leaders to defend kidney patients' rights. I was diagnosed with end-stage renal disease in 2011. My life changed overnight. No longer able to work while undergoing dialysis treatment three days each week, I was having a hard time paying my bills.

Luckily, I found a safety net in the form of premium assistance from the American Kidney Fund, a long-standing and well-known U.S. charity. Thanks to the help of nonprofits and charitable assistance, I was able to get the medical treatment I needed.

Today, kidney disease affects one in nine Americans — and that number continues to grow. But despite this increasingly important reality, health insurance companies and a federal government agency have recently taken steps aimed at benefiting insurers rather than patients. If insurance companies have their way, they will prohibit low-income kidney patients from using premium assistance, taking away their choice of health plans.

Government leaders must recognize these harmful efforts for what they are — discrimination — and help patients fight back. Our country must come together to defend patients' right to choose the best health plan for their individual needs, regardless of whether they received financial aid to pay some of their bills.

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High Point

    

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