



June 11, 2018

Martha Acevedo  
1712 Joseph Court  
Merced, CA 95340

Re: **Oppose the California State Ballot Initiative on Dialysis Reimbursement**

Dear Martha,

The Renal Physicians Association (RPA) is the professional organization of nephrologists whose goals are to ensure optimal care under the highest standards of medical practice for patients with kidney disease and related disorders. RPA acts as the national representative for physicians engaged in the study and management of patients with kidney disease. Part of RPA's mission is to promote excellence in the delivery of high quality kidney care within an environment that supports patient access to care and safety.

We are writing on behalf of our nearly 200 nephrologist members in California, who care for many of the approximate 65,000 of the state's residents with end-stage renal disease (ESRD).

We are writing in opposition to a ballot initiative that would inappropriately limit reimbursement for dialysis services. The ballot measure is eligible for the November ballot and you will be asked to vote on it at the upcoming California Democratic Party Executive Board meeting in July.

**We urge you to oppose it.**

RPA fully supports efforts to provide dialysis care in a fiscally prudent manner. On a national level, we have traditionally worked with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure that reimbursement rates for dialysis facilities under the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System are developed equitably and appropriately and which honors CMS' fiduciary responsibilities.

**However, RPA firmly believes that this ballot initiative if advanced and acted upon will be harmful to dialysis patient care broadly in California.**

Patients with ESRD are among the most vulnerable sub-populations of chronically ill patients, and arbitrarily limiting the resources available to treat them (to the benefit of the health insurance industry) will result in reduced availability of clinical and administrative staff and is likely to force dialysis facilities to decrease operating hours or close. Further, these cutbacks will

disproportionately affect rural and low-income areas where the need for these services is most acute.

**For the reasons outlined above, RPA urges opposition to the ballot initiative limiting dialysis reimbursement.**

RPA welcomes the opportunity to work collaboratively with policymakers in California to improve the quality of care provided to California's kidney patients, and we stand ready as a resource to the state legislature on issues related to the care of kidney patients. Any questions or comments regarding this correspondence should be directed to RPA's Director of Public Policy, Rob Blaser, at [rblaser@renalmd.org](mailto:rblaser@renalmd.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Shapiro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent.

Michael D. Shapiro, MD, MBA, FACP, CPE  
La Jolla, California  
RPA President