



Division of Organ Transplantati

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April 7, 2026

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2119,

My name is Sanjana Kapoor. I am a transplant nephrologist and have worked in Rhode Island since November 2025 prior to which I practiced in Mississippi for 3 years. Over the course of my time as a transplant nephrologist, I have taken care of several dialysis patients who have been unable to receive kidney transplants due to immigration status. From a medical perspective, an overwhelming majority of these patients would be excellent transplant candidates. Most work full or part-time jobs despite the limitations posed by a grueling three times a week dialysis schedule. The patients I take care of, overwhelmingly, had no knowledge of their kidney disease when they first arrived in the United States and were diagnosed with kidney disease while living here.

These patients can receive dialysis through a charitable fund at Rhode Island Hospital for which they apply annually. However, they are denied access to kidney transplantation at Rhode Island Hospital because they have no insurance. It has been demonstrated in states such as California that kidney transplant is a safe and cost-effective option for undocumented immigrants with end stage kidney disease, making it the optimal treatment choice for all patients.

S2119 would afford undocumented Rhode Islanders with end-stage kidney disease the opportunity to undergo kidney transplantation at Rhode Island Hospital. This would allow them to live longer, healthier lives, and continue to make positive contributions to the State of Rhode Island in addition to being the more cost-effective treatment for end stage kidney disease. I encourage members of the Senate to vote in favor of S2119.

Sincerely,

Sanjana Kapoor, MBBS
Transplant Nephrology
Rhode Island Hospital

Additional Resources

Eguchi N, Tantisattamo E, Chung D, Reddy UG, Ferrey A, Dafoe D, Ichii H. Outcomes among undocumented immigrant kidney transplant recipients in California. JAMA Network Open. 2023 Feb 13;6(2):e2254660.