

Good afternoon Chair Prusak and members of the committee my name is James Adkins, and I am the Director of Advocacy for the NW Kidney Council.

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting access to quality care for the kidney community in Oregon and Washington.

Our organization supports the passage of HB 2421 because Chronic Kidney disease can be hard to diagnose in the early stages as there are few, if any symptoms, making it more likely that patients will progress to end-stage renal disease (ESRD) also known as kidney failure before they are aware of their condition.

At that point there are only two treatment options for patients: dialysis and kidney transplantation.

Patients who are diagnosed with kidney disease in its early stages can often slow or stop it from progressing with lifestyle and diet changes, as well as medications.

Establishing this task force and bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders to tackle the issues surrounding kidney disease will lead to more informed dialogue, better decision-making and more effective policies that focus on improving patient outcomes and reducing health disparities.

The NW Kidney Council also supports the dash 1 amendments which make valuable improvements to the base bill including the expansion of the taskforce membership to promote a broader array of stakeholders, expanding the scope of the Task Force to further reach historically disadvantaged communities and the alignment of the awareness campaigns with existing campaigns at the Oregon health authority.

This alignment is key because of the intertwined nature of chronic kidney disease with other health risks like Diabetes, High blood pressure and Heart disease.

The NW Kidney Council hopes the members of this committee will support the passage of HB 2421 and the establishment of the Oregon Kidney Disease Prevention and Education Task Force.

I would also like to note the cutoff date for bills this Friday, March 19. I respectfully request that there be no delay in the scheduling of this bill for a work session with the committee so that it may continue to move through the legislative process.

Thank you so very much for your time and I will gladly try and answer any questions the committee may have.