

## Legislator Meeting Report Back Form

Advocate name: \_\_\_\_\_

Office visited: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Visit: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you drop off materials?      Y                      N

If yes, what was provided: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you meet with a Senator/Representative?      Y                      N

List the names of staff members, Senators/Representatives and all advocates present for meeting:

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Does the Senator/Representative or staff have any personal connection to chronic kidney disease, diabetes, transplant/living donation (i.e., family member or friend affected)? Please explain.

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Describe any concerns/questions raised by member/staff:

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Describe any follow-up required with this office—e.g., items you promised or that the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois needs to provide:

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Please include any additional information about what was discussed in this meeting and any other thoughts regarding follow-up from your meeting:

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*Please return this form to Jessica MacLean via FAX at (312) 321-1505 or email at [jmaclean@nkfi.org](mailto:jmaclean@nkfi.org).*

## Gift of Life Advocates Introductory Letter Template

**Date**

Senator or Representative **First Name Last Name**  
ADDRESS

Dear **Representative or Senator Last Name**:

I am writing to introduce myself and an important issue to you and your staff.

***(insert personal story)***

*As a living donor, I know firsthand how important living kidney donation can be to someone waiting for a life-saving transplant. Kidney disease/failure is a disease that costs the U.S. 42 billion in annual Medicare expenditures to treat; however, a kidney transplant gives a recipient the opportunity to stop dialysis, continue working and lead a healthy life. This is the ideal option for many patients dealing with kidney failure, which is why my group, the Gift of Life Advocates, aims to increase awareness for living kidney donation...*

OR

*As a (organ type) transplant recipient, I know firsthand how organ donation and transplantation can save lives. Thanks to one family's decision to donate their loved one's organs, I have been given a second chance at life. My group, the Gift of Life Advocates, partners with the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois to advocate for...*

I would appreciate the opportunity to visit your office and discuss this issue with **you/Staffer Name**.

We are urging you to learn more about the issues that the transplant community in Illinois is currently battling so that we can work together to support legislature that will solve these problems.

Please know that I appreciate **your/Staffer Name's** time and consideration of my requests. I will follow up with your office by phone the week of (insert the next week's dates) with the hopes to schedule a few minutes to speak with you in person.

Sincerely,

**First Name Last Name**  
**Home Street Address**  
**City, State ZIP**  
**Phone Number/Email address**

**CC: First Name Last Name of Staffer, Title**  
**Jessica MacLean, National Kidney Foundation of Illinois**

## Gift of Life Advocates Thank You Letter Template

**Date**

Senator or Representative **First Name Last Name**  
ADDRESS

Dear **Representative or Senator Last Name**:

I am writing to express my appreciation to **you/your staffer, First Name Last Name** for taking time out of **your/his/her** busy schedule to meet with me on (insert date you visited office). I very much appreciated the opportunity to visit your office and discuss with **you/Staffer Name** issues of priority to me and the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois.

**Insert your personal reasons for attending the meeting.** For example:

*As a living kidney donor, I know firsthand how important a transplant can be to someone waiting for a life-saving organ. Kidney disease/failure costs the U.S. 42 billion in Annual Medicare expenditures to treat; however, a kidney transplant gives a recipient the opportunity to stop dialysis, continue working and lead a healthy life. Transplantation is not only more cost-effective than keeping patients on dialysis, but it improves the lives of patients dealing with kidney failure, which is why my group, the Gift of Life Advocates, aims to increase awareness for living kidney donation...*

OR

*As a (organ type) transplant recipient, I know firsthand how organ donation and transplantation can save lives. Thanks to one family's decision to donate their loved one's organs, I have been given a second chance at life. My group, the Gift of Life Advocates, partners with the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois to advocate for...*

As I discussed with **you/Staffer Name**, we are urging you to support (living kidney donation, the extension of Medicare coverage for immunosuppressant medications).

Please know that I very much appreciate **your/Staffer Name's** time and consideration of the issues that we discussed. I look forward to hearing from you as we work to improve legislature for transplant recipients and donors.

Sincerely,

**First Name Last Name**  
**Home Street Address**  
**City, State ZIP**  
**Phone Number/Email address**

**CC: First Name Last Name of Staffer, Title**  
**Jessica MacLean, National Kidney Foundation of Illinois**



# National Kidney Foundation<sup>™</sup> of Illinois

## Diabetes by the Numbers

### POPULATION

23.6 million

Children and adults in the United States have diabetes.

5.7 million

People are **currently undiagnosed**

57 million

People are **pre-diabetic**

44%

New cases of kidney failure caused by diabetes complications

### COST

\$174 billion

Total costs of diagnosed diabetes in the United States in 2007

\$116 billion

Direct medical costs for diabetes patients

\$58 billion

Indirect costs for diabetes patients (disability, work loss, premature mortality)



# National Kidney Foundation<sup>™</sup> of Illinois

## Transplantation and Donation by the Numbers

### POPULATION

110,000	Waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant nationwide
20,000	Transplants occur each year, a number that does not match the growing wait list
15,000	Kidney patients in Illinois receive dialysis at least 3 times per week to replace kidney function
4,800	Individuals are waiting for an organ transplant in Illinois
18	People die each day while waiting for a lifesaving transplant
10	Minutes that pass before a new person is added to the national waiting list

### COST

\$20 Billion	Annual cost of the Medicare ESRD (End Stage Renal Disease) program
\$42 Billion	Annual Medicare expenditures to treat people with CKD
\$71,000	Medicare spending on dialysis per patient per year



# National Kidney Foundation™ of Illinois

## Sample Script for Meetings with Legislators

“Hello, (name of legislator). It’s very nice to meet you. Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today. I am a constituent in your district and am here today to discuss with you my participation in a new group called the Gift of Life Advocates.

This group is comprised of transplant recipients, living kidney donors, donor family members, healthcare professionals and patients with kidney disease, diabetes and hypertension. We’ve assembled this group with the support of the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois as we all advocate for issues that affect our group.

As a (transplant recipient, donor, healthcare professional etc.), I know firsthand how important organ donation and transplantation is. (INSERT YOUR STORY HERE).

I just wanted to introduce myself to you and bring you these materials (brochures) on the Gift of Life Advocates. We are available to you if you ever have any questions regarding organ donation and transplantation and hope to work with you in the future. Thank you again for your time.”