

I rise today to recognize the week of August 9, 2010, as Kidney Disease Awareness and Education Week. This important event is sponsored by the American Nephrology Nurses' Association, ANNA. The week helps remind us and all Americans of the needs of patients suffering from or at risk of End Stage Renal Disease, ESRD.

I have met with nephrology nurses from my district to discuss ESRD and hear from them firsthand about their work. According to national reports, over 400,000 Americans have irreversible kidney failure. The only treatment for ESRD is dialysis or kidney transplantation; however, transplantation is limited due to the shortage of donors. The majority of patients undergo regular dialysis treatments to sustain life.

In my home state of New Jersey there are 10,882 people who suffer from ESRD and require regular dialysis. Nephrology nurses play a critical role in providing kidney disease patients with dialysis and related care and treatment to patients with ESRD across the entire country.

ANNA's Kidney Disease Awareness and Education Week provides a great opportunity for everyone to learn about the excellent work being done by nephrology nurses across the country. Finally, I want to commend the nephrology nurses in New Jersey for the great work they do every day.