



PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THESE OTHER IMPORTANT POLICIES

COSPONSOR THE LIVING DONOR PROTECTION ACT (HR 1224/S 511)

An average of about 5,000 lives are saved by liver transplant each year, yet more than 1,400 Americans die waiting for a transplant in that same period. In 2017, 367 liver transplants were made possible by living donors. However, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) does not specify that living organ donors can take unpaid leave to recover from their donation and does not guarantee that donors will have a job waiting for them after surgery. The Living Donor Protection Act of 2019 supports a crucial need in protecting our living donors, who willingly give of themselves to promote the long-term health and well-being of others. It will allow greater access to liver transplant by:

- **Protecting Donors.** This legislation will prohibit insurance companies from denying or limiting coverage and from charging higher premiums for living organ donors' life, disability and long term care plans.
- **Ensuring that a living donor will not be discriminated against or lose their job.** The legislation clarifies that the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) applies to living donors, ensuring that those who donate part of their liver to someone in need can return to work after recovering from surgery.
- **Educating potential donors.** The legislation directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to update the agency's materials related to living donation to appropriately reflect the changes the legislation will make to current policies.

Please contact Melissa Connolly with Representative Nadler (melissa.connolly@mail.house.gov) or Rachel Thompson with Representative Herrera Beutler (rachel.thompson@mail.house.gov) to cosponsor this legislation in the House. Please contact Madison Erstine with Senator Cotton (madison_erstine@cotton.senate.gov) or Jasmin Palomares with Senator Gillibrand (jasmin_palomares@gillibrand.senate.gov) in the Senate.

COSPONSOR THE RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE APRIL 30 AS NATIONAL ADULT HEPATITIS B VACCINATION AWARENESS DAY (H.RES. 331/ S.RES. 177)

Hepatitis B is a leading cause of cirrhosis and liver cancer and can lead to co-infections with hepatitis C, diabetes, and HIV. There are up to 2.2 million people in the United States with chronic Hepatitis B and many are unaware of their status. Despite the availability of a hepatitis B vaccine, only 25 percent of adults are vaccinated against it. Today, the rate of hepatitis B infection has risen sharply in the United

States in relation to the spread of the opioid epidemic. In fact, Maine experienced a 729 percent increase in acute Hepatitis B cases from 2015-2017, Kentucky, West Virginia and Tennessee had a 114 percent increase from 2009-2013, and southeastern Massachusetts had a 78 percent increase in 2017.

This important resolution designates April 30 as National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day. It works to raise awareness of the risks of hepatitis B and the benefits of widespread vaccination.

To cosponsor this legislation, please Evelyn Knapp (evelyn.knapp@mail.house.gov) with Representative Hank Johnson or Jacqueline Hsieh with Representative Grace Meng (jacqueline.hsieh@mail.house.gov) in the House. Please contact Nicholas Luna (nicholas_luna@hirono.senate.gov) with Senator Mazie Hirono in the Senate.

For more information, please contact Lyle Dennis or Erika Miller at (202) 484-1100.