

groups, national AANHPI organizations, national nephrology foundations, and key healthcare providers across the country, urged raising awareness and improving outcomes in rare kidney disease in the disproportionately impact Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities. Asian populations have the higher proportion of IgAN at 40–50 percent. This powerful letter cites that Asian Americans are at several times higher risk of IgAN than white Americans and is a significant driver of ESKD. The letter also calls attention to successful rare kidney disease screening programs used in other countries which have reduced the rates of ESKD for people under 20 by about 50 percent. Programs show that early intervention and screening can have a big impact.

As I noted last year, novel therapies to treat IgAN have been recently approved and it is my understanding that numerous clinical trials are underway with more therapies are on track for FDA review later this year and 2025. These therapies give families hope and are already helping promote kidney health and delay the progression to dialysis or transplant for thousands of people.

I once again want to thank the IgA Nephropathy Foundation and note that Mary Schneider from Venice in my district remains a Board member of this outstanding organization. I understand that the IgAN Foundation is hosting an Advocacy Day this year, and hope that it is a major success. On this day, May 14, 2024, we honor all families facing this challenging disease and recognize IgA Nephropathy Awareness Day.

APRIL 12, 2024.

Re Request to Raise Awareness and Improve Outcomes for Rare Kidney Disease in AA and NHPI Communities.

Hon. Secretary XAVIER BECERRA,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY BECERRA: We are writing to urge you to take action beginning this May to address the high rates of rare kidney diseases (RKD), including IgA Nephropathy (IgAN), as a significant health equity challenge for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities in the United States.

We recognize and appreciate that the Biden Administration has placed equity and the needs of underserved communities at the center of all of its efforts, including at HHS. Given your role as Co-Chair of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, we wanted to emphasize the opportunities presented by the rapidly changing treatment and care paradigm in RKD, including IgAN, which has the potential to improve outcomes for patients, particularly within the AA and NHPI communities. Taking action now can ensure that the AA and NHPI communities are not left behind as what has been called a "golden age" of research in RKD begins to yield advances in care and treatment, while also preventing significant costs for American's healthcare system, including Medicare and Medicaid.

Asian Americans are at several times higher risk of IgAN than white Americans. In one global study, among patients who had renal biopsies with glomerulonephritis—the most common cause of kidney disease in the United States following hypertension and diabetes—Asian populations have the highest proportion of IgAN, at 40–50 percents. In chronic kidney disease, Asian patients have both worse prognosis than white patients and increased risk of progression to end-stage renal disease (ESRD).

While it is a rare disease in the United States, IgAN is the most common form of chronic glomerulonephritis, a significant driver of ESRD. IgAN can be especially devastating because onset often begins when patients are in their twenties or thirties, potentially leading to kidney failure much earlier in life than other causes of ESRD.

Thankfully, we now have effective tools to deploy, including cost-effective urinalysis and two new Food and Drug Administration-approved therapies to address IgAN, with over 60 more clinical trials underway in IgAN, FSGS, C3G, Minimal Change Disease, and others.

However, many barriers to care remain for AA and NHPI communities, from lack of patient and provider awareness of RKD and kidney disease generally, to cultural and linguistic barriers unique to the AA and NHPI communities. Evidence shows that interventions can be cost-effective and transformative, with a recent paper showing a universal urinalysis program in Japan reduced ESRD rates among people under 20 by nearly 50 percent.

We urge you to increase awareness of rare kidney diseases, including IgAN, as a health equity challenge for the AA and NHPI communities, and to take further steps to mitigate current barriers to screening, diagnosis, and treatment. The upcoming Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May and IgAN Awareness Day on May 14 represent an opportunity to initiate these critical efforts.

We look forward to partnering with you to improve the health and well-being of the AA and NHPI communities and tackling the challenge of RKD together.

Sincerely,

Juliet K. Choi, President & CEO, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum.

Yanlin Wang, M.D., Ph.D., FASN, President, Chinese American Society of Nephrology.

Bonnie Schneider, Founder & Executive Director, IgAN Foundation.

Josh Tarnoff, CEO, NephCure Kidney International.

Raymond Hsu, MD, MAS, School of Medicine, University of California-San Francisco.

Kevin Longino, CEO, National Kidney Foundation.

Jenifer Ngo Waldrop, Executive Director, Rare Disease Diversity Coalition.

Fahmeedah Kamal, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Stanford University Medicine.

LaVarne Burton, President and CEO, American Kidney Fund.

Li-Li Hsiao, MD, Ph.D., Founder, Kidney Disease Screening and Awareness Program (KDSAP), Harvard Medical School.

Shikha Wadhvani, MD, MS, FASN, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Northwestern University.

Gary A. Puckrein, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer, National Minority Quality Forum.

RECOGNIZING CAPE MAY MUSEUMS, ARTS, CULTURE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of attending the Cape May MAC annual Volunteer Appreciation reception last Tuesday to meet with some great people. This organization has been a champion of the arts, cultures, and history that have taken place in Cape May County, South Jersey since its

founding in 1970. Since that time, it has evolved Cape May from a beach resort to the United States' top Victorian theme destination. MAC has been able to do this by bringing to life the Victorian lifestyle of the 19th century by providing several activities that visitors can participate in. These include several tours whether it be a guided walking tour, golf-cart tour, or a hybrid tour incorporating both the historic houses of the district and the three historical sites MAC has. These historic sites include the Emlen Physick Estate built in 1879, the Cape May Lighthouse which has been in use since 1859, and the Fire Control Tower No. 23, a restored 1942 coastal artillery lookout tower from World War II. It was an honor to have the opportunity to visit this extraordinary organization that does so much for its community and tells the story of 19th century South Jersey so well. God bless Cape May MAC and God Bless the United States of America.

SUPPORTING THE YOUTH POISONING PROTECTION ACT

HON. MIKE CAREY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill that will prevent deadly chemicals from falling into the hands of children, our Youth Poisoning Protection Act.

It's a parent's worst nightmare: a faceless stranger over the internet teaching your child how to take their own life, and your child, in a moment of vulnerability, listening to them.

That's exactly what happened to Kristine Jonsson, a vibrant sixteen-year-old from Hilliard, Ohio whose life was cut tragically short in September 2020. Kristine was open with her parents about her mental health struggles, but it was behind closed doors on an internet forum that she learned about sodium nitrite.

With the coaching of strangers online, Kristine was able to purchase sodium nitrite on Amazon.com and get it shipped to her front door, all without the knowledge of her parents.

Sodium nitrite is a chemical used in the preservation of meat and fish, which in high concentrations is deadly if ingested. In fact, one spoonful of the chemical is one hundred times more lethal than other poisons. High concentrations of some chemicals can be harmful if used improperly, which is why they are usually highly regulated or banned for sale to consumers.

Thanks to online forums like the one Kristine saw, the number of suicide deaths using sodium nitrite is steadily rising. In recent years, the share of sodium nitrite usage as a method of self-poisoning has grown nine times over.

By passing this bill, we can save lives.

The Youth Poisoning Protection Act would prevent the commercial sale of highly-concentrated sodium nitrite, so it can never fall into the hands of a vulnerable young person.

I want to thank my colleague, Rep. TRAHAN of Massachusetts, as well as Senators J.D. VANCE of Ohio and TAMMY DUCKWORTH of Illinois for partnering with us in this important effort.

With their support and yours, we are one step closer to preventing these senseless tragedies.

HONORING CHRIS IGLESIAS, CEO
OF THE UNITY COUNCIL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Mr. Chris Iglesias as he celebrates his 10-year tenure as Chief Executive Officer of The Unity Council, a non-profit that supports social equity initiatives in Oakland, California. In this role, he has led a long-standing organization that is dedicated to improving Oakland's Fruitvale District and the lives of residents who live within it, including seniors, children, communities of color, small business owners, and immigrants. The work of The Unity Council has proved invaluable in bettering the lives of the residents of the largest Latino neighborhood in the Bay Area.

Mr. Iglesias has many accomplishments that prove his dedication bettering the community and building a more vibrant Fruitvale. One of his accomplishments includes securing \$58 million to fund units of affordable housing in the Fruitvale neighborhood. Additionally, he has expanded Bay Area social equity programs, including creating Oakland's Latino Men & Boys program in partnership with Oakland Unified School District and the Oakland Mayor's office and supporting The Unity Council's early education programs in partnership with the city's Early/Head Start Program for early education.

Chris Iglesias has a long history of supporting the people of California and the larger Bay Area. He was previously a Senior Advisor to San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, a Director of Regional Workforce Initiatives at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and an Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. He is also the founding director of CityBuild, a construction workforce program in San Francisco that provides workforce trainings for residents. Along with serving as CEO of The Unity Council, Iglesias also serves on the Oakland Thrives Leadership Council as well as the Job and Housing Coalition.

I am happy to congratulate Chris Iglesias on his decade of service, and to thank him for his dedication to underserved communities in the city of Oakland. His impact and legacy will resonate with The Unity Council and the entire community of Fruitvale for years to come. I look forward to seeing this organization's continued growth under Mr. Iglesias' strong leadership. Congratulations to Mr. Iglesias on this significant milestone, and here's to many more years of inspiring leadership.

RECOGNIZING AMANDA RUD

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Amanda Rud who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of

hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Ms. Rud and her fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

RECOGNIZING VINCENT TAYLOR

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vincent Taylor for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Vincent has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Vincent, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Vincent's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Mandalay Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Vincent Taylor on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING TROY CLARKSON

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Troy Clarkson as he receives the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce 2024 Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award.

Raised in Falmouth, Massachusetts, Clarkson has always had a strong commitment to supporting and bettering the lives of his fellow Falmouth residents. After graduating from Falmouth High School in 1986, Clarkson attended Boston College, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in political science. Clarkson then returned to Falmouth, and at the age of 24, was the youngest person to be voted to the Town of Falmouth Select Board.

Clarkson served on the Select Board for 12 years before later taking on the role of Town Manager for the Town of Bridgewater followed by the Town of Hanover. With extensive experience working in municipal government and a master's degree in public administration from Bridgewater State University, Clarkson was named the City of Brockton's Chief Financial Officer in 2019, a role that he continues to work in today.

Throughout his career, Clarkson has always remained involved in his hometown and the local Cape Cod community. Clarkson serves

on the Falmouth Housing Trust Board and is the President of Carousel of Light, Inc. as well as the founder and President of the Sober Living Foundation. Clarkson has also worked with several local organizations over the years, including the Falmouth Commodores, Falmouth Education Foundation, Falmouth Road Race, Falmouth Village Association, Rotary Club of Falmouth, and Falmouth Community Television. Additionally, Clarkson writes a column for the Falmouth Enterprise on the local issues impacting the community and promotes collaboration and understanding through his writing.

On May 14, 2024, the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce will hold its 110th Annual Meeting and Award Dinner, where Clarkson will be honored as the 2024 Outstanding Citizen of the Year. When it came time for the chamber to decide who to name the Outstanding Citizen of the Year, the vote for Clarkson was unanimous. Clarkson's lifetime of advocacy and dedication to the Falmouth community serves as an example to all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Troy Clarkson, and I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking him for his continuous and unwavering commitment to the Town of Falmouth over the years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ZACH POLETT, THE 'ORGANIZER'S ORGANIZER'

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and achievements of Zach Polett, one of our Nation's greatest recent community organizers. A humble and unassuming figure, Zach was a brilliant political strategist and dedicated activist who—among other accomplishments—helped organize the first health care workers' union in the South, pass statewide minimum wage and campaign finance ballot initiatives, design nationwide voter registration programs and cultivate a new generation of community activists. The loss of Zach in September 2023 has been deeply felt by those fighting for social justice across the country.

The soul of our democracy is sustained by people like Zach, who believe in the fundamental dignity of every human being and the power of collective action to address our most pressing challenges. Though active in many social movements in college to oppose the Vietnam War and support the Civil Rights Movement, Zach originally set out to study medicine at Harvard University and Stanford Medical School. It turns out that his career as an organizer wouldn't stray too far from his original intent. Instead of treating people, Zach treated the structural ills that afflict our communities. He set out to heal the world.

After medical school, Zach moved to Little Rock for an internship with a small nonprofit called Arkansas Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). That internship would change his life and the lives of so many others. Through ACORN, Zach quickly found his calling to help Americans from all walks of life channel their desire for change into community power. Zach was uniquely talented in the