

Statement from the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) President Mark E. Rosenberg, MD, FASN, on Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Azar’s Remarks on Efforts to Improve Care for Kidney Patients

Washington, DC (March 4, 2019)-On behalf of the 40 million Americans living with kidney diseases and their families and the more than 20,000 ASN members who are physicians, scientists, nurses, and health professionals, ASN applauds the bold vision and leadership of HHS Secretary Alex M. Azar II in establishing an HHS-wide comprehensive kidney strategy and wholeheartedly agree that “we’ve waited long enough. We just need renewed ambition and the right policies.”

ASN believes that Secretary Azar’s tripartite strategy, focused on preventing kidney diseases by catalyzing innovation in health care delivery and therapeutics, expanding alternatives to in-center dialysis, and increasing the availability of organs for kidney transplantation, will significantly improve the lives of those Americans affected by kidney diseases. The Secretary understands the urgent need to bring higher quality care to patients. He experienced it firsthand when his father had kidney failure, underwent dialysis, and then fortunately received a kidney transplant. I commend the Secretary and this administration for acknowledging that the current state of care for kidney patients is unacceptable and that complex barriers inhibit innovation—and for developing a visionary strategy to change that reality.

More than 40 million people in the United States are living with kidney diseases, a condition for which there is no cure, and more than 700,000 Americans have kidney failure, a group whose ranks are increased by 100,000 Americans every year. In addition to the suffering of patients, families, and caregivers, kidney diseases are costly

