LaQuayia Goldring Biography

LaQuayia Goldring of Bardstown, Kentucky, is a kidney transplant recipient and kidney transplant candidate. She received the Lisa Allgood Excellence in Kidney Disease Education award from the National Kidney Foundation, awarded to those focused on improving the care and outcomes for those affected, as well as communicating risk factors and implementing outreach efforts. She is an intern with the Pediatric and Rare Liver Disease program at Global Liver Institute. She hopes to earn a medical degree.

Testimony of LaQuayia Goldring
Kidney Transplant Recipient and Kidney Transplant Candidate
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy
Remote Hearing on "The Urgent Need to Reform the Organ Transplantation System to Secure More Organs for Waiting, Ailing, and Dying Patients"
Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Cloud, and subcommittee members for the chance to testify.

My name is LaQuayia Goldring. I'm 31 years old.

I'm in the category of a waiting and ailing patient. I'm trying desperately to avoid being a dying patient.

As a toddler I was diagnosed with a rare kidney cancer called Wilms tumor that took my left kidney.

At age 17, I went into complete renal failure and had to get a right kidney transplant. Unfortunately, at the age of 25 I went back into complete renal failure.

I've now been waiting six years for a second kidney transplant.

Every day that I'm waiting, I'm closer to becoming one of the 12 Americans who die each day, waiting for a kidney transplant.

The only treatment keeping me alive is going to dialysis in a clinic three days a week for four hours at 6:45 every morning, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, where I'm stuck with 2 needles each time.

I'm now at the dialysis clinic for this testimony.

I can't miss dialysis, ever; even when COVID-19 hit the United States, I still had to go.

Of course I’m grateful for dialysis, but it isn’t easy. I’ve had over 100 surgeries on both of my arms and underneath my neck for dialysis accesses so that I'm able to get adequate cleaning each time I go.

With my poor kidney function, there are changes to my blood pressure, where there are days when my blood pressure is either stroke level high or it's so low that I can barely walk or even talk or even be able to see. Many days I have to be helped or physically carried to my car and into my home after dialysis. There's a lot of nausea and vomiting, a change in appetite from day to day, and a change in mood from day to day.

Sometimes I’m so weak and in pain from neuropathy flare-ups, I can barely walk, yet I have to find the strength to fight.

Potential living donors who might match with me are told they’re not financially stable enough to sign up or insurance companies won’t continue to provide coverage. Most states lack donor protections. If somebody wants to donate and has to be off work for weeks as a result, they could be fired without state protections.

Insurance company changes bump me off of the transplant list. I have to fight to get back on.

Recently, my insurance company switched from one company to the next. Instead of notifying me or my transplant team that I needed additional testing, I was taken off the list and listed as inactive.

I had to wait for my transplant team to get prior authorization from the insurance company to get back on the list.

When that happens, I never know how or when I’ll get back on the list or how long the process could take.

My time off the list is excruciating. I never know whether I missed my window for a transplant. The perfect match could have come along while I was inactive.

The longer I’m off the list, the longer I feel my life is hanging in the balance, even though there are plenty of willing donors ready to help.

And I know this is the story of many Americans across the United States.

I’m definitely looking forward to the day that my living donor calls and says, hey, I have the gift of life to give to you, just like my first one did.

I honor my first donor's life by just living life every day to the fullest, being able to see my siblings grow up, going to college. Becoming a doctor one day is the way that I want to honor my first donor’s life as well as my second. Thank you.