

National Kidney Foundation

Stance on Abortion

<https://www.kidney.org/news/dobbs-ruling-puts-kidney-patients-jeopardy>

National Kidney Foundation's CEO, Kevin Longino, released a sympathetic statement toward those upset by the *Dobbs v. Jackson* ruling. In the statement, Longino says the following:

As state and federal policymakers navigate a post-Dobbs landscape, the National Kidney Foundation encourages them to keep the following considerations in mind. First, pregnancy can be a very high-risk condition for individuals with kidney disease, kidney failure, or a kidney transplant. Risks of poor outcomes are higher in people with CKD, for both fetus and mother, than in the general population. Individuals with a kidney transplant might need to make modifications to their immunosuppressive drug regime that require advanced planning and preparation before they can safely become pregnant. Additionally, individuals with kidney failure may have to change their dialysis modality if they become pregnant, which could involve invasive surgery and be potentially disruptive to the patients' health and quality of life. Kidney disease also disproportionately affects communities that already face health equity challenges, including difficulty accessing primary care and transportation to health appointments. These communities are likely to face increased hardships due to the Court's decision, and kidney patients in these communities could experience yet another burden accessing necessary health treatments. Finally, the Dobbs' ruling takes health care decisions out of the hands of patients and their healthcare professionals and subjects them to state legislators who are not trained to anticipate the unique and heartbreaking circumstances that often surround reproductive health considerations, especially for kidney patients. We must do all we can to preserve the independence of the patient/doctor relationship, so that all patients have a full choice of treatment options and ensure that healthcare decisions are made by those directly affected. **In closing, good kidney care requires comprehensive access to all healthcare services, including reproductive health services**

and potentially abortion. NKF urges lawmakers at the federal and state levels to act now and work with physician groups and health advocates to ensure all kidney patients have timely access to the healthcare they need.

Stance on Contraception

<https://www.kidney.org/atoz/content/pregnancy>

In response to a question about getting pregnant after a kidney transplant, NKF responded that it “is very important to use birth control until you and your healthcare provider have agreed that it is safe for you to become pregnant.”

They also promote other birth control methods in the following statement: “The diaphragm, sponge, and condom are usually acceptable means of birth control, especially when used with spermicidal creams, foams or jellies. The newer IUD is also possible.”

Stance on LGBTQ+ Lifestyle

<https://www.kidney.org/newsletter/lgbtqia-healthcare-disparities-impact-kidney-disease-outcomes>

In their newsletter from June 20, 2023, the National Kidney Foundation writes about the healthcare disparities among the LGBTQ+ community and continues to promote pro-LGBTQ+ organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign and The Trevor Project.



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