



**Oregon Chapter
American College of
Emergency Physicians**

**Statement for the Record
Jt. Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee
March 2, 2021
Support for POP 405
Coverage of Renal Dialysis for CAWEM Patients**

Co-Chair Leiber, Co-Chair Nosse and members of the committee, please accept this statement for the record on behalf of OR-ACEP, the Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. OR-ACEP is a medical society that has represented physicians specializing in emergency medicine since 1971 and its members share a commitment to improve emergency healthcare for all Oregonians.

OR-ACEP strongly supports Policy Option Package 405 and asks that you include it in HB 5024, the OHA budget bill. This POP will fund outpatient dialysis coverage in the CAWEM program for undocumented patients with end stage renal disease. These patients are currently ineligible for federal assistance from Medicare. While the General Fund investment of \$1.1 million is modest, the human cost of doing nothing is high. The lack of coverage for life-saving dialysis treatment means that some undocumented dialysis patients are forced to resort to emergency dialysis in the emergency department when their condition meets a critical and dangerous threshold. This is at odds with the standard of care for people living with end stage renal disease (ESRD) and results in higher mortality rates (3 percent for scheduled dialysis vs. 17 percent for emergency dialysis). The appropriate standard of care should be scheduled dialysis rather than waiting until the life of the patient is threatened.

Thank you for your consideration and for your efforts to improve access to care for life saving dialysis services for some of the most vulnerable people living and working in our state.

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