

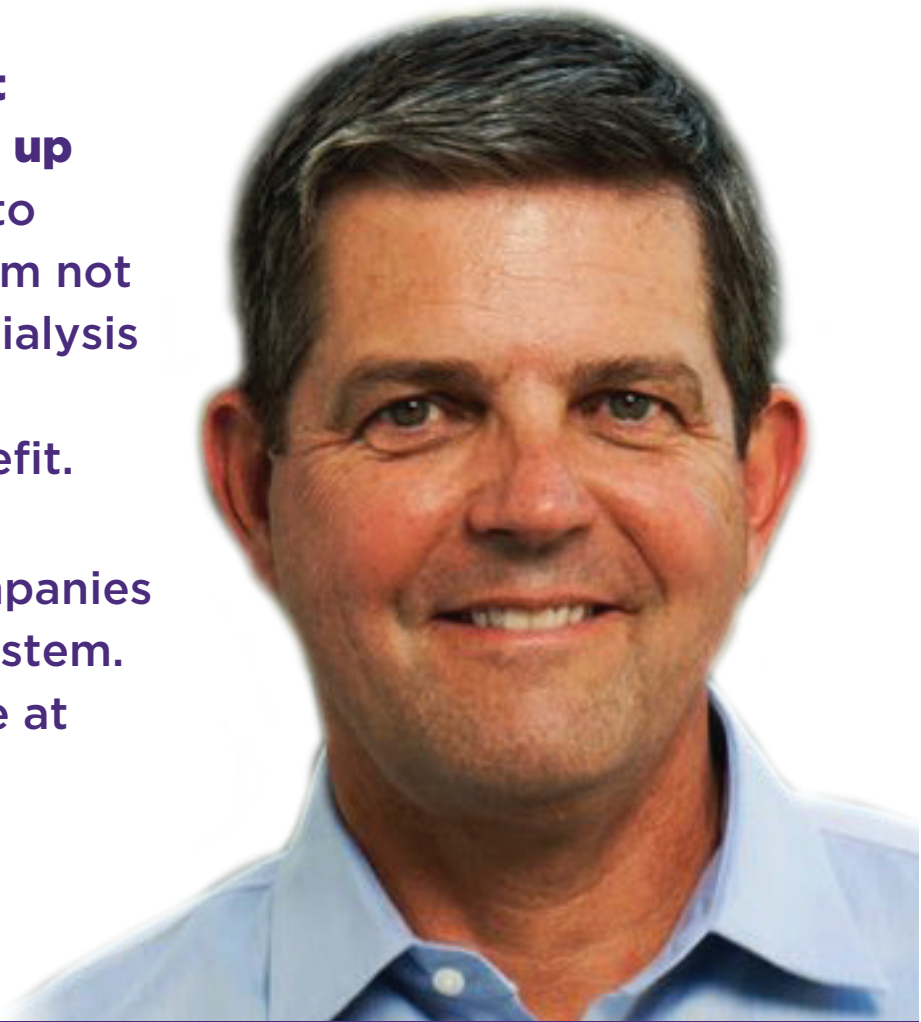
WE'RE FIXING DIALYSIS

Our fight to hold the dialysis industry accountable to workers and patients keeps growing

ASSEMBLYMEMBER JIM WOOD is authoring AB 290 to prevent dialysis companies from scamming the healthcare system.

“We fought this battle last year and I’m back to take up the fight. I’m committed to protecting patients, but I’m not interested in protecting dialysis companies scamming the system for their own benefit.

I’m tired of for-profit companies milking the health care system. Patients need quality care at an affordable cost.”



—DR. JIM WOOD, Assembly Health Committee Chair

STOP THE SHADOW PAYER SCHEME



Dialysis corporations are gaming the system to increase their profits at the expense of California patients

HOW DOES THE SCHEME WORK?

Some dialysis corporations have pushed patients to enroll in commercial healthcare coverage instead of public coverage (Medicare or MediCal) by offering to pay the private insurance premiums through the American Kidney Fund (AKF).

Switching patients to commercial insurance maximizes profits for the dialysis companies who charge exorbitant rates to commercially insured patients.

AB 290 WILL PUT A STOP TO THE ABUSE

- 1) CREATES TRANSPARENCY.** Providers would have to tell health plans that they are paying premiums for a patient and tell the patient about their other coverage options.
- 2) PUTS PATIENTS FIRST.** In order to ensure a continuity of care for patients, patient's health insurance premiums cannot be cut off mid-year.
- 3) REMOVES FINANCIAL INCENTIVES.** The large dialysis companies that fund AKF would be reimbursed at the Medicare rate for patients on AKF-paid plans.

The American Kidney Fund (AKF)

Follow the money. The American Kidney Fund receives most of its financial backing from DaVita and Fresenius, the nation's two largest dialysis corporations. They made a combined \$4 billion in profits from their U.S. dialysis operations in 2017.

Patients put at risk. The AKF stops paying patients' health insurance premiums when their bodies are still at risk of rejecting the transplant and they need health coverage more than ever.

Big payoffs. AKF pays the primary insurance premiums of approximately 1,900 dialysis patients in California, netting the industry more than \$150 million more per year than it would if the patients were covered through Medicare.