

**TO:**

[Chair Heather A. Bagnall](#)  
and Members of the [House Health Committee](#)  
Maryland House of Delegates

**FROM:**

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**DATE:** March 17, 2026

**POSITION:** SUPPORT

**Testimony in Support of [House Bill 1126](#)  
Health Insurance and Managed Care Organizations – Laboratory Services – Contract  
Providers**

House Health Committee

Hearing: March 19, 2026 at 1:00 PM

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the Committee:

My name is Precious McCowan. I am a kidney transplant patient, a mother, and a national advocate for people living with kidney disease who is currently working in kidney disease research. I am writing in support of House Bill 1126 because access to the right diagnostic testing at the right time can mean the difference between life, organ failure, and survival.

I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at the age of nine. Over time, that disease led to kidney failure and the need for organ transplantation. My transplant journey has included dialysis, the loss of transplanted organs, and three separate kidney transplants. Through these experiences, I have learned how critical timely diagnostics are to protecting transplanted organs and saving lives.

In 2010, I received a simultaneous kidney and pancreas transplant. Both organs failed after only seven months. During that time, I experienced serious complications and signs of medical distress, but answers were difficult to find. I was left with unanswered questions about whether earlier insight into rejection risk could have changed the outcome.

During this already fragile period in my life, tragedy struck again. The day before I was admitted to the hospital with complications from my transplant, my two-year-old son passed away unexpectedly. My husband and I made the unimaginable decision to donate his organs so that other families might have a chance at life. Just days later, while planning his funeral, I was rushed into emergency surgery and woke up in the ICU connected to dialysis. I was not able to attend my own child's funeral.

Following that experience, I spent eight years on dialysis waiting for another transplant. Dialysis meant constant hospital visits, exhaustion, and uncertainty about whether another chance at life would ever come.

In 2019, I received my second kidney transplant. But even after that transplant, I experienced severe complications and aggressive anti-rejection treatment. Once again, I was unaware of newer noninvasive diagnostic tools that might have helped detect rejection risk earlier. In 2023, that kidney also failed, and I returned to dialysis once more.

In 2024, I received my third kidney transplant. Today I live with the constant fear that rejection could happen again.

Through my journey as a patient and advocate, I have learned that advances in diagnostic technology now exist that can detect early signs of transplant rejection through noninvasive testing. These technologies have the potential to help physicians intervene earlier, protect transplanted organs, and spare patients from unnecessary biopsies and hospitalizations.

But these innovations only help patients if they are accessible.

When insurance coverage or network restrictions prevent physicians from accessing the appropriate diagnostic laboratories, patients may lose critical time. For transplant patients like me, time matters. Early detection can preserve transplanted organs, reduce suffering, and prevent patients from returning to dialysis or waiting years for another transplant.

House Bill 1126 helps ensure that physicians and patients can access qualified laboratories that provide the diagnostics needed to guide treatment decisions. This legislation helps remove barriers that can prevent patients from benefiting from advances in medical science.

My life has been shaped by both the miracles and the limitations of modern medicine. I have experienced the hope of transplantation, the devastation of organ failure, and the long wait for another chance at life.

No patient should ever be left wondering whether earlier diagnostic information could have saved their transplant.

For patients like me, access to timely diagnostic testing is not an abstract policy issue — it is a matter of survival.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 1126.

Thank you for your time and for considering the voices of patients like me.

Sincerely,

Precious McCowan  
Kidney Transplant Patient and Advocate