What is dialysis? Dialysis keeps patients alive when their kidneys fail by taking out the patient's blood, cleaning it, and putting it back in their body. In Ohio, 18,000 people depend on dialysis, and two big corporations, Fresenius and DaVita, dominate the dialysis industry.

Dialysis patient care is in crisis and it's driving up costs for all Ohioans.

Patient care is suffering

Patients and caregivers report bloodstains and cockroaches in dialysis clinics. The lack of sanitation and hygiene can contribute to high infection rates. In 2016, 13% of dialysis clinics in OH had worse infection rates than the national average.

Overcharging drives up costs

Dialysis companies charge patients with private insurance an average $150,000 for a year of dialysis treatment. That's a 350% markup from the cost of providing care! Insurance companies are forced to pass the costs to all policyholders, driving up healthcare premiums for ALL Ohioans. A national insurance company reports that it takes 3,800 enrollees to offset the cost of one dialysis patient.

Clinics are facing penalties for poor performance

In 2017 CMS issued Medicare reimbursement rate penalties to 22% of Ohio dialysis clinics because they did not meet or exceed performance standards.

Clinics are focused on increasing profits

In 2015 DaVita was required to pay $22 million to several states, including Ohio, as part of a whistleblower lawsuit settlement regarding allegations that DaVita violated federal anti-kickback regulations.

The Kidney Patient Protection Amendment

A ballot initiative for the November 2018 election

Invest in patient care

The Kidney Patient Protection Amendment pushes for-profit dialysis corporations to spend more money on direct patient care. If passed, dialysis corporation revenues will be limited to no more than 15% above the amount they spend on patient care. By linking revenue to care, dialysis corporations will have a greater incentive to invest in patient care.

Lower healthcare costs for all Ohioans

When we stop dialysis companies from overcharging we can bring down the cost of healthcare premiums for all of us.

Now

$38 MILLION
PROFIT AND NON-CARE EXPENSES

COST OF CARE
$100 MILLION

Under initiative

$15 MILLION

COST OF CARE
$100 MILLION

Example

Kidney Patients Deserve Better