



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 09-038

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also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Looper, Acree, Apuan, Balmer, Baumgardner, Benefield, Bradford, Casso, Court, Curry, Ferrandino, Fischer, Frangas, Gagliardi, Gardner B., Gardner C., Gerou, Green, Hullinghorst, Judd, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr A., Kerr J., King S., Labuda, Lambert, Levy, Liston, Marostica, Massey, May, McCann, McFadyen, McKinley, McNulty, Merrifield, Middleton, Miklosi, Murray, Nikkel, Pace, Peniston, Pommer, Primavera, Priola, Rice, Riesberg, Roberts, Ryden, Scanlan, Schafer S., Solano, Sonnenberg, Soper, Stephens, Summers, Swalm, Tipton, Todd, Vaad, Vigil, Waller, Weissmann, Carroll T.

CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF ORGAN AND TISSUE DONORS THROUGH THE OBSERVATION OF "DONATE LIFE COLORADO MONTH".

WHEREAS, April is designated as "National Donate Life Month", which has been observed across the United States since 2003; and

WHEREAS, "National Donate Life Month", which was originally observed for a week and known as "National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week", is a time to raise public awareness of the critical need for organ, tissue, marrow, and blood donation and to recognize the altruism and generosity of organ and tissue donors; and

WHEREAS, Donate Life Colorado's community, supporters, and volunteers will launch a broad initiative in April 2009 to mobilize citizens of Colorado to register as organ and tissue donors, and the re-launch of the state donor registry by Donate Life Colorado will be at the center of this

campaign; and

WHEREAS, Through the established recognition of the Donate Life brand, advocates of organ and tissue donation can inspire those who have not made a decision about becoming a donor, and those who may have ruled themselves out as donors, to reconsider the opportunity to "Donate Life", a succinct call to action to register as an organ and tissue donor; and

WHEREAS, To date, nearly 450,000 transplants have occurred in the United States since 1988; and

WHEREAS, According to the United Network for Organ Sharing, currently more than 100,000 people in the United States are on the waiting list for a lifesaving organ transplant and in October 2008 that number rose above 100,000 for the first time; and

WHEREAS, Over 1,800 Coloradans are currently waiting for lifesaving transplants, and 21% of those transplant candidates have been on the waiting list for five years or more; and

WHEREAS, On average, 18 people die per day in the United States from the lack of available organs for transplant and 6% of people on the waiting list, amounting to over 7,000 people per year, die before they are able to receive a transplant; and

WHEREAS, Donated organs, including the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, and small intestine, are allocated based on the severity of an illness, total time spent on the waiting list, blood type, and match potential; and

WHEREAS, A healthy person can become a "living donor" by donating a kidney, a lung, blood, part of the liver or intestine, or bone marrow, and more than 6,000 living donations occur each year; and

WHEREAS, The buying and selling of human organs for transplants is illegal in the United States and in most countries, but international black markets for organs are a reality in response to the increased demand for transplants around the world; and

WHEREAS, It is important to increase the number of organ and tissue

donations to reduce the number of American citizens who take great risks in traveling to other countries seeking black market organs; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is recognized as one of the nation's leaders in the percentage of people, currently at 64%, who enroll as registered donors when renewing or receiving their driver's licenses; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's multiple state agencies are working to make organ and tissue donor registration more mainstream and accessible by providing access to the donor registry through the state web site; and

WHEREAS, Colorado provides targeted outreach and important education to the state's ethnic populations, which tend to have a higher genetic propensity for organ failure; and

WHEREAS, Coloradans can register to be organ and tissue donors in the following ways:

(1) Online at the Donor Registry, by going to the following web site: www.DonateLifeColorado.org;

(2) In person at the Division of Motor Vehicles (or online at the DMV web site);

(3) By calling 888-256-4386 and requesting a paper donor registry form; or

(4) Through the printed Colorado state income tax booklet; and

WHEREAS, One deceased donor can save the lives of up to 8 individuals through organ donation and more than 100 people through the lifesaving and healing gift of tissue donation; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

That we, the members of the General Assembly, hereby:

(1) Designate the month of April as "Donate Life Colorado Month"; and

(2) Recognize the significant contributions of advocates of organ and tissue donation, as their efforts have ultimately saved lives through educating the public and registering people as organ and tissue donors; and

(3) Express gratitude to the many Coloradans who have committed to fulfilling the critical role of organ and tissue donors; and

(4) Urge Colorado citizens to consider registering as organ and tissue donors; and

(5) Encourage all state agencies to provide access to the donor registry for Colorado's citizens.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to Joan Henneberry, Executive Director of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing; Harris Sherman, Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources; Dean Winstanley, Colorado State Parks Director; Rich Gonzalez, Executive Director of the Department of Personnel and Administration; James B. Martin, Executive Director of the Department of Public Health and Environment; Peter A. Weir, Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety; Roxanne Huber, Executive Director of the Department of Revenue; and Bernie Buescher, the Secretary of State of Colorado.

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