

House Concurrent Resolution No. 55

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE GRAY.

1607H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

Relating to minority organ donor awareness week.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

2 **WHEREAS**, with more than 118,000 people waiting for an organ donation and with
3 more than 7,000 people dying each year due to the lack of organs, public awareness of the great
4 need for organ donation is the key to increasing the number of organ donors and thereby saving
5 lives and improving the quality of life for recipients of organ donation; and

6 **WHEREAS**, approximately 30,000 people a year have begun new lives thanks to an
7 organ transplant. Organs and tissue from a single nonliving donor can be used to benefit more
8 than 50 people. Living donors can donate a kidney and parts of their liver, lung, pancreas, or
9 intestine, and can be evaluated to help a friend, family member, or even donate anonymously to
10 patients on the wait list; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, promoting the need for organ and tissue donors and encouraging people to
13 become organ donors and tissue donors is vitally important to increase the number of lives saved
14 and changed for the better through organ donation; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, while every person must be advised of their option to donate an organ,
17 special emphasis needs to be directed to minority organ donation, a potential donation population
18 that to date has not become donors in large numbers; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, an intensive awareness campaign focused on obstacles related to minorities
21 and organ donation and which promotes healthy living and disease prevention to decrease the
22 need for organ transplantation and reaches out to all ethnic groups is greatly needed:
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24 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
25 Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
26 concurring therein, hereby designate the first week of August as "Minority Organ Donor
27 Awareness Week" in Missouri; and

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29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly encourages and
30 recommends that people of the State of Missouri observe Minority Organ Donor Awareness
31 Week through activities, which will specifically address the need to increase awareness of organ
32 donation by all ethnic groups and the need for organ donors. Such activities may include prayer
33 breakfasts, health walks, and donor drives; and

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35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his
36 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

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