

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2—Senator Spearman

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Honoring former State Senator Allison Copening for her advocacy for organ donation and expressing the support of the Nevada Legislature for the development of a transplant institute.

WHEREAS, Allison Copening, who served in the Nevada State Senate with honor and distinction from 2008 until 2012, tragically passed away from a brief and sudden illness on January 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Senator Copening was a long-time advocate for organ donation, and in death modeled what she preached in life, as she selflessly gave so that others could live, by being an organ donor; and

WHEREAS, More than 30,000 organ transplants are performed in the United States each year, and yet, every 10 minutes another person is added to the transplant waiting list; and

WHEREAS, On any day, there are at least 600 Nevadans waiting for a life-saving organ transplant, but, tragically, even with Senator Copening’s wonderful gift of life, Nevadans were not the recipients of her organ donation because Nevada’s transplantation services are severely limited; and

WHEREAS, The University Medical Center of Southern Nevada is the sole transplant provider in Nevada, and is currently providing only kidney services; and

WHEREAS, Most Nevadans are forced to leave the State to receive the transplantation services they need; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Donor Network is the nation’s highest-performing organ procurement organization, in terms of both organs transplanted per million in population, and organ donors per million in population; and

WHEREAS, Due to the efforts of the Nevada Donor Network, the number of organ donors in Nevada has grown 190 percent since 2008, but due to a lack of transplantation services in the State, more than half of all donated kidneys are “exported” to different transplant programs in surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, The vision of the Nevada Donor Network Foundation is to bring to Nevada a full-scale transplant institute to anchor and drive the growth of the health care sector in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The development of a transplant institute represents a vital piece in establishing Nevada as a center for health innovation and economic development, and would provide a critical element to



increasing the workforce of physicians, research opportunities and related commercial activities; and

WHEREAS, A thriving transplant institute can contribute hundreds of millions of dollars annually to a regional economy, and create thousands of jobs; and

WHEREAS, By the year 2040, the development of a transplant institute could result in Nevada not only satisfying the demands of a growing region but also serving as a magnet for patients from outside the region; and

WHEREAS, Estimates reflect that more than \$356,000,000 can be added to the regional economy by the year 2040 if transplantation services are added to satisfy regional demand; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby honor State Senator Allison Copening for her advocacy for organ donation and for her ultimate gift of life by being an organ donor at her passing and express their support for the development of a transplant institute because the expansion of transplantation services in Nevada will have a significant positive impact on the health, well-being and quality of life of Nevadans as well as on the economy by adding thousands of new jobs and providing millions of dollars in government revenue; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of Allison Copening and to the Governor, the Director of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon adoption.

