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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 259 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY CULVER, HUGHES, PENNYCUICK, MARTIN, SANTARSIERO,  
TARTAGLIONE, BROWN, L. WILLIAMS, HAYWOOD, BREWSTER, COMMITTA,  
KANE, HUTCHINSON, VOGEL, COSTA, PHILLIPS-HILL, J. WARD AND  
MILLER, APRIL 5, 2024

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 5, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2024 as "Pennsylvania Donate Life  
2 Month."

3 WHEREAS, Organ and tissue transplantation has been recognized  
4 as a corrective and lifesaving medical procedure; and

5 WHEREAS, Each person who donates organs, eyes and tissues can  
6 potentially save or enhance more than 75 lives and take 8 people  
7 off the organ transplant waiting list; and

8 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 103,000 people are  
9 awaiting lifesaving organ transplants in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, On average, 17 people will die each day in the  
11 United States waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant; and

12 WHEREAS, Approximately 7,000 men, women and children are  
13 awaiting lifesaving organ transplants in Pennsylvania; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2023, approximately 16,000 individuals in the  
15 United States, including 789 individuals and families in this  
16 Commonwealth, elected to support the gift of life through organ  
17 donation after death; and

1       WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has 15 transplant centers and is  
2 recognized as the world leader in organ and tissue  
3 transplantation; and

4       WHEREAS, State law enables individuals to donate their organs  
5 and tissues through placing the donor designation on driver's  
6 licenses or State identification cards and also allows relatives  
7 to consent to the donation of organs and tissues of a deceased  
8 family member; and

9       WHEREAS, A vital component of the continuation and  
10 advancement of organ transplantation is the recovery of donor  
11 organs and tissues; and

12       WHEREAS, The lifesaving work of transplant team medical  
13 professionals and researchers to improve techniques and  
14 antirejection drugs has resulted in a significant increased  
15 success rate for organ transplantations; and

16       WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is a national and international leader  
17 in the field of donation and transplantation, but the number of  
18 people in need of transplants far exceeds the number of organs  
19 and the amount of tissue available; and

20       WHEREAS, Despite the progress made in Pennsylvania's Organ  
21 and Tissue Donor Awareness Program through the efforts of the  
22 Commonwealth's organ procurement organizations, Gift of Life  
23 Donor Program and the Center for Organ Recovery and Education  
24 and their partnering hospitals and exceptional health care  
25 workers, the growing demand for donated organ and tissues for  
26 transplantations represents a public health issue which merits  
27 action; and

28       WHEREAS, If this Commonwealth is to remain a leader in organ  
29 donation and transplantation, it is necessary that the  
30 pronouncements and public policies of the State government both

1 encourage and promote organ and tissue donation; therefore be it  
2 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2024  
3 as "Pennsylvania Donate Life Month"; and be it further  
4 RESOLVED, That the Senate support organ donation and strongly  
5 encourage all residents of this Commonwealth to designate  
6 themselves as an organ and tissue donor on their driver's  
7 licenses or State identification cards or by registering online  
8 at [www.donatelifepa.org](http://www.donatelifepa.org) and share the decision to do so with  
9 their families and friends.