



February 28, 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 20

Introduced by: Bacon, Barrett, Fleming, Manning

February 17, 2020, read first time and referred to Committee on Public Health.
February 27, 2020, reported — Do Pass.

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION urging the pursuit of policy that
2 increases organ donor supply.

3 *Whereas, Indiana leads the Midwest in donor registrations,*
4 *with more than 75% of Indiana citizens over the age of 18*
5 *registered as donors;*

6 *Whereas, An estimated 90 candidates in Indiana are on the*
7 *wait list for a liver transplant, according to the United Network*
8 *for Organ Sharing (UNOS);*

9 *Whereas, UNOS is a private government contractor that*
10 *operates the Organ Procurement Transplantation Network,*
11 *which manages the national system that matches donated*
12 *organs with recipients;*

13 *Whereas, UNOS also develops the allocation policies that*



1 *prioritize recipients and determine which candidates are*
2 *offered which organs;*

3 *Whereas, The United States was previously divided into 11*
4 *regions and 58 smaller geographic areas called donation*
5 *service areas or DSAs;*

6 *Whereas, Under the DSA model, donated livers were offered*
7 *first to the sickest patients in the donor's DSA and region and*
8 *then shared nationally;*

9 *Whereas, The Organ Procurement Transplantation Network*
10 *adopted a new liver allocation policy that became effective on*
11 *February 4, 2020, known as the Acuity Circles Policy, which*
12 *will decrease the number of transplants nationally, according*
13 *to a federal contractor's calculations;*

14 *Whereas, The country will experience dramatic shifts from*
15 *sharing donor livers based on medical need, while prioritizing*
16 *local patients to flying organs and transplant teams up to 500*
17 *nautical miles away from each donor hospital, if the Acuity*
18 *Circles Policy takes effect;*

19 *Whereas, Transplant candidates in certain regions of the*
20 *country, including Indiana, where there is a higher rate of*
21 *mortality while waiting for a liver transplant will have to wait*
22 *longer to receive an organ under the Acuity Circles Policy;*
23 *and*

24 *Whereas, The Acuity Circles Policy will disproportionately*
25 *increase the risk for patients, donor organs, and transplant*
26 *teams in those regions, including Indiana, and does not address*
27 *the core issue of transplantation in the United States, a*
28 *shortage of donated organs: Therefore,*

29 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*
30 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

31 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives
32 urges the pursuit of policies that seek to increase the supply of
33 organs through improvements in DSA level donation rates, in
34 conjunction with other policies, that may serve to improve the



1 current system of organ transplantation in a fashion that does
2 not otherwise create geographic disparities among states.

3 SECTION 2. That the Acuity Circles Policy, which only
4 shifts the current supply of organs from one part of the country
5 to another, fails to address an underlying problem, the short
6 supply of transplantable organs.

7 SECTION 3. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
8 Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution to
9 Representative Ronald Bacon for distribution.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Public Health, to which was referred House Resolution 20, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said resolution do pass.

(Reference is to HR 20 as printed February 18, 2020.)

KIRCHHOFER

Committee Vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0

