

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 57

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE GRAY.

5690H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

---

## AN ACT

Relating to donate life month.

---

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

1           **WHEREAS**, there are currently more than 123,000 people waiting for an organ  
2 donation, with the largest waiting group being persons 18 to 49 years of age; and

3  
4           **WHEREAS**, more than 7,500 people die each year due to the lack of organs, with an  
5 average of 21 people dying each day while on the waiting list for an organ donation; and

6  
7           **WHEREAS**, approximately 30,000 people a year have begun new lives thanks to an  
8 organ transplant; and

9  
10          **WHEREAS**, organs and tissue from a single nonliving donor can be used to benefit  
11 more than 50 people. Living donors can donate a kidney and parts of their liver, lung,  
12 pancreas, or intestine, and can be evaluated to help a friend, family member, or even donate  
13 anonymously to patients on the wait list; and

14  
15          **WHEREAS**, raising and promoting awareness and information about the need for  
16 organ and tissue donors and encouraging people to become an organ donor and tissue donor is  
17 vitally important to increase the number of lives saved and changed for the better through  
18 organ donation; and

19  
20          **WHEREAS**, every person must be advised of their option to donate an organ. By  
21 focusing on education and donor awareness, every person can be informed on the need for  
22 organ donors; and

23

24           **WHEREAS**, the following excerpt is from "To Remember Me - I Will Live Forever",  
25 written by American Poet Robert Noel Test (1926 - 1994):

26

27           "...And don't call this my deathbed. Let it be called the bed of life, and let my body be  
28 taken from it to help others lead fuller lives.

29           Give my sight to the man who has never seen a sunrise, a baby's face or love in the  
30 eyes of a woman.

31           Give my heart to a person whose own heart has caused nothing but endless days of  
32 pain.

33           Give my blood to the teenager who was pulled from the wreckage of his car, so that he  
34 might live to see his grandchildren play.

35           Give my kidneys to the one who depends on a machine to exist from week to week.

36           Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber and nerve in my body and find a way to  
37 make a crippled child walk. Explore every corner of my brain.

38           Take my cells, if necessary, and let them grow so that, someday a speechless boy will  
39 shout at the crack of a bat and a deaf girl will hear the sound of rain against her window...";

40 and

41

42           **WHEREAS**, public awareness of the great need for organ donation is the key to  
43 increasing the number of organ donors and thereby saving lives and improving the quality of  
44 life for recipients of organ donation:

45

46           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
47 Representatives of the One Hundred Second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the  
48 Senate concurring therein, hereby designate April as "Donate Life Month" in Missouri; and

49

50           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the General Assembly encourages and recommends  
51 that people of the State of Missouri observe Donate Life Month through activities which will  
52 increase awareness of organ donation and the need for organ donors; and

53

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

✓