

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2—SENATOR SPEARMAN

FEBRUARY 15, 2021

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Honors former State Senator Allison Copening for her advocacy for organ donation and expresses the support of the Nevada Legislature for the development of a transplant institute. (BDR R-66)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

5 WHEREAS, Due to the efforts of the Nevada Donor Network, the
6 number of organ donors in Nevada has grown 190 percent since
7 2008, but due to a lack of transplantation services in the State, more
8 than half of all donated kidneys are “exported” to different
9 transplant programs in surrounding states; and

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

13 WHEREAS, The development of a transplant institute represents
14 a vital piece in establishing Nevada as a center for health innovation
15 and economic development, and would provide a critical element to
16 increasing the workforce of physicians, research opportunities and
17 related commercial activities; and

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

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

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

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

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



1 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
2 adoption.

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