

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 103

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to urge Tennesseans to register as organ and tissue donors.

WHEREAS, twenty people nationwide die every day waiting for an organ transplant; and

WHEREAS, 110,000 Americans are currently on the organ donation waiting list, including 3,105 Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, ninety-five percent of Americans believe registering as an organ and tissue donor is the right thing to do, yet only fifty-eight percent nationally, and just forty-one percent in Tennessee, are actually registered to become donors; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Donor Services serves at the center of a dynamic, interconnected system that involves donor families, local hospitals, and transplant centers across the State in the delicate and time-sensitive mission of saving lives through transplant; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Donor Services, one of the top-performing organ procurement organizations in the United States, employs a team of healthcare professionals who work on the frontline every day to reach out to families at the depth of their grief and support them through tragedy so that others' lives can be saved; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, even in the midst of a global pandemic, Tennessee Donor Services had its most successful year in its more than forty-year history, making 1,116 organ transplants possible thanks to the selfless generosity of 390 Tennessee organ donors; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors; and

WHEREAS, increasing the number of registered organ and tissue donors is a benefit to all Tennesseans and provides more lifesaving opportunities across the State and nation; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is known around the world as the Volunteer State, where neighbor helps neighbor and pursuing the betterment of others comes before oneself; and

WHEREAS, registering to become an organ and tissue donor is easily accomplished online at BeTheGiftToday.com or when registering or renewing a Tennessee driver license; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we urge and encourage all residents of Tennessee to step forward and register to become an organ and tissue donor so that the lives of others can be saved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of the department of health and the commissioner of the department of safety.