

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 20

## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES WALTON GRAY (Sponsor), OXFORD, PACE, JONES (63),  
FUNDERBURK, SCHIEFFER AND DENISON (Co-sponsors).

0355L.04I

2       **WHEREAS**, there are currently more than 105,000 people waiting for an organ donation,  
3 with the largest waiting group being persons 18 to 49 years of age; and

4       **WHEREAS**, more than 7,000 people die each year due to the lack of organs, with an  
5 average of 18 people dying each day while on the waiting list for an organ donation; and

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

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

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

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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 organ  
22 donors; and

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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 eyes  
30 of a woman.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
45 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
46 concurring therein, hereby designate April 2011 as "Donate Life Month" in Missouri.

47

48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly encourages and  
49 recommends that people of the State of Missouri observe Organ Donor Life Month through  
50 activities which will increase awareness of organ donation and the need for organ donors.