

House Resolution

No. 19

Introduced by Assembly Member John A. Pérez

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Carter, Cedillo, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Davis, Dickinson, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Furutani, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Hall, Harkey, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Lara, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mansoor, Mendoza, Miller, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

July 14, 2011

House Resolution No. 19—Relative to National Minority Donor Awareness Month.

1 WHEREAS, Organ and tissue donation are compassionate,
2 life-giving acts looked upon and recognized in the highest regard;
3 and
4 WHEREAS, More than 110,000 individuals nationwide and
5 more than 21,000 Californians are currently on the national organ
6 transplant waiting list. While about one-third of these patients
7 receive a transplant each year, another one-third die while waiting
8 due to a shortage of donated organs; and

1 WHEREAS, Nationwide, minorities make up 54 percent of
2 organ transplant candidates and more than 60 percent of those
3 awaiting kidney transplants. In California, Latinos make up 35
4 percent of those waiting for life-saving transplants, Asians and
5 Pacific Islanders 16 percent, and African Americans another 14
6 percent; and

7 WHEREAS, Minorities are more likely to need a life-saving
8 transplant due to higher incidences of hypertension, diabetes, and
9 hepatitis, conditions that can potentially lead to organ failure and
10 placement on the national organ transplant waiting list; and

11 WHEREAS, Minorities make up over one-half of the population
12 of high school students in California according to the State
13 Department of Education. These high school students will have
14 the opportunity to make a decision about saving lives and joining
15 the more than 8.5 million Californians who have already signed
16 up with the state-authorized Donate Life California Registry to
17 ensure that their wishes to be organ and tissue donors are
18 recognized and honored; and

19 WHEREAS, Donate Life California has developed a
20 comprehensive Educator Resource Guide that includes many of
21 the health education content standards for California public schools
22 in order to fully inform students that all Californians can register
23 with the Donate Life California Registry when applying for a driver
24 license or identification card at the Department of Motor Vehicles.
25 This Educator Resource Guide includes lesson plans and
26 educational DVDs created specifically for the youth population;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, A single individual's donation of his or her heart,
29 lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, and small intestine can save up to
30 eight lives. The donation of tissue can save and improve the lives
31 of up to 50 others, and thousands of lives are saved and improved
32 each year by donors; now, therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the*
34 *Assembly of the State of California proclaims the entire month of*
35 *August 2011 as National Minority Donor Awareness Month in*
36 *California. In doing so, the Assembly of the State of California*
37 *encourages all California educators to provide their students the*
38 *opportunity to be fully educated about the decision they will be*
39 *required to make at the Department of Motor Vehicles, including*
40 *whether to check "YES" when applying for a driver license or*

1 identification card, and about signing up at
2 www.donateLIFEcalifornia.org or www.doneVIDAcalifornia.org;
3 and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
5 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O