

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 29

Introduced by Assembly Member Frazier

February 23, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 29—Relative to organ donation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 29, as introduced, Frazier. Donate Life California Day: driver's license.

This measure would designate April 20, 2015, as DMV/Donate Life California Day in the State of California and the month of April 2015, as DMV/Donate Life California Month in the State of California, and would encourage all Californians to sign up with the Donate Life California Organ and Tissue Donor Registry.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Organ, tissue, eye, and blood donation are
2 compassionate and life-giving acts looked upon and recognized
3 in the highest regard; and

4 WHEREAS, More than 123,000 individuals nationwide and
5 over 22,000 Californians are currently on the national organ
6 transplant wait list. While about one-third of these patients receive
7 a transplant each year, another one-third die while waiting due to
8 a shortage of donated organs; and

9 WHEREAS, A single individual's donation of heart, lungs,
10 liver, kidneys, pancreas, and small intestine can save up to eight
11 lives, the donation of tissue can save and enhance the lives of up
12 to 50 others, and a single blood donation can help three people in
13 need; and

1 WHEREAS, Millions of lives each year are saved and enhanced
2 by donors of organs, tissue, eyes, and blood; and

3 WHEREAS, The California Department of Motor Vehicles is
4 celebrating 100 years of service to the State of California and ten
5 years as the official partner of Donate Life California; and

6 WHEREAS, A California resident can register with the Donate
7 Life California Registry when applying for or renewing his or her
8 driver's license or identification card at the Department of Motor
9 Vehicles; and

10 WHEREAS, Nearly twelve million Californians have joined
11 together to save lives by signing up with the state-authorized
12 Donate Life California Organ and tissue Donor Registry to ensure
13 that their wishes to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor are
14 recognized and honored; and

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

19 WHEREAS, Nationwide, minorities make up 58 percent of
20 organ transplant candidates and 64 percent of those awaiting kidney
21 transplants. In California, Latinos make up 39 percent of those
22 waiting for life-saving transplants, Asians and Pacific Islanders
23 20 percent, and African Americans another 12 percent; and

24 WHEREAS, Minorities make up more than one-half of the
25 population of high school students in California, according to the
26 State Department of Education. These high school students will
27 have the opportunity to make a decision about saving lives and
28 joining the state-authorized Donate Life California Registry to
29 ensure that their wishes to be organ, eye, and tissue donors are
30 recognized and honored; and

31 WHEREAS, Donate Life California has developed a
32 comprehensive Educator Resource Guide that includes many of
33 the health education content standards for California public schools.
34 This Educator Resource Guide includes lesson plans and
35 educational DVDs about organ, eye, and tissue donation, and the
36 Donate Life California Registry created specifically for the youth
37 population; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
39 *thereof concurring,* That in recognition of April as National Donate
40 Life Month, the Legislature proclaims April 20, 2015, as

1 DMV/Donate Life California Day in the State of California, and
2 April 2015 as DMV/Donate Life California Month in the State of
3 California. In doing so, the Legislature encourages all Californians
4 to check “YES” when applying for or renewing a driver’s license
5 or identification card, or by signing up at
6 www.donatelifecalifornia.org or www.donevidacalifornia.org; and
7 be it further
8 *Resolved*, that the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
9 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O