

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 17, 1995

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 3, 1995

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1995–96 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 25

Introduced by Assembly Members Mazzoni, Aguiar, Alpert, Archie-Hudson, Baca, Bowen, Valerie Brown, Bustamante, Caldera, Cannella, Cortese, Cunneen, Davis, Figueroa, Firestone, Friedman, Gallegos, Harvey, Hauser, Horcher, Isenberg, Katz, Kuehl, Kuykendall, Lee, Machado, Martinez, McDonald, McPherson, Kevin Murray, Napolitano, Rainey, Sher, Sweeney, Takasugi, Tucker, Vasconcellos, Villaraigosa, and Woods

(Coauthors: Senators Alquist, Ayala, Beverly, Boatwright, Calderon, Campbell, Costa, Craven, Dills, Greene, Hayden, Haynes, Hughes, Hurtt, Johannessen, Johnston, Kelley, Killea, Kopp, Leonard, Leslie, Lewis, Lockyer, Maddy, Marks, Mello, Monteith, Mountjoy, O'Connell, Peace, Petris, Polanco, Rogers, Rosenthal, Russell, Solis, Thompson, Watson, and Wright)

March 29, 1995

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 25—Relative to Donor Family Recognition Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 25, as amended, Mazzoni. Donor Family Recognition Day.

Existing law, the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, provides the legal means for making a donation of all or part of a human body to take effect upon or after death.

This measure would proclaim April 17, 1995, as California Donor Family Recognition Day to coincide with National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week as a means to recognize the lifesaving and life-enhancing contributions made by organ and tissue donors and their families who consent to the recovery of transplantable organs and tissues on behalf of their loved ones.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Every three hours one person in the
2 United States dies while awaiting organ transplantation,
3 and in 1994, 3,098 persons died while awaiting transplants
4 because too few families agreed to give the "Gift of Life"
5 by consenting to organ donation on behalf of their
6 deceased loved ones; and

7 WHEREAS, In addition to solid organs, transplants can
8 be performed using tissues such as heart valves for cardiac
9 patients, corneas for patients with corneal blindness, skin
10 for patients with critical burns who require skin grafts,
11 and bone and cartilage for reconstructive or
12 rehabilitative orthopedic transplants; and

13 WHEREAS, More than 18,000 organ transplants were
14 performed in the United States in 1994, of which 2,400
15 were performed in California; and

16 WHEREAS, The national waiting list of patients in
17 need of solid organ transplants now exceeds 38,000 men,
18 women, and children; and

19 WHEREAS, More than 400,000 tissue transplants were
20 performed in the United States in 1994, of which more
21 than 40,000 were performed in California, most of which
22 were skin, bone, tendon, and cartilage allografts; and

23 WHEREAS, At any given time the number of patients
24 in the United States waiting to receive tissue transplants
25 exceeds 10,000 men, women, and children; and

26 WHEREAS, More than 41,000 corneal transplants were
27 performed in the United States in 1994, of which 4,736
28 were performed in California; and



1 WHEREAS, The national waiting list of patients in
2 need of corneal transplants exceeds 6,000 men, women,
3 and children; and

4 WHEREAS, Evidence about a person's willingness to
5 be an organ and tissue donor, even in the form of a signed
6 Organ Donor Declaration on a California driver's license
7 under the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, often can be
8 outweighed when families elect not to consent to
9 donation; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1994, more than 2,400 California
11 families gave the "Gift of Life" to critically ill people in
12 California, across the United States, and even in other
13 countries, by consenting to the prompt recovery of
14 organs and tissues on behalf of their deceased family
15 members, even during their time of grief and
16 bereavement; and

17 WHEREAS, One California family, the family of the
18 late Nicholas Green of Bodega Bay, has received
19 international recognition for their altruistic decision to
20 donate Nicholas' organs and tissues to desperately ill
21 children and adults in Italy, where Nicholas tragically
22 perished in October 1994, at the age of seven; and

23 WHEREAS, In California there is a need for increased
24 education and awareness about the supply and demand
25 for organ and tissue donation so that patients, families,
26 and their physicians can speak openly about organ and
27 tissue donation, participate in family discussions, prepare
28 Advance Directives stipulating their wishes regarding
29 organ and tissue donation, and recognize that organ and
30 tissue donation is a lifesaving memorial tribute to
31 deceased loved ones; now, therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*
33 *Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby
34 proclaims Monday, April 17, 1995, as California Donor
35 Family Recognition Day to coincide with National Organ
36 and Tissue Donor Awareness Week from April 16, 1995
37 through April 22, 1995, so that the citizens of California
38 may be made aware of the need for organ and tissue
39 donation and the opportunity that organ and tissue



1 donation offers as a lifesaving memorial tribute to
2 deceased loved ones; and be it further
3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
4 transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor of the
5 State of California, to the President and Vice President of
6 the United States, to each Senator and Representative
7 from California in the Congress of the United States, to
8 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and to the
9 Director of the United Network for Organ Sharing,
10 advising them of the special recognition afforded by the
11 Legislature to those families who have given the “Gift of
12 Life.”

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