

House Resolution

No. 19

Introduced by Assembly Member John A. Pérez

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

9 WHEREAS, Nationwide, minorities make up 54 percent of
10 organ transplant candidates and more than 60 percent of those
11 awaiting kidney transplants. In California, Latinos make up 35
12 percent of those waiting for life-saving transplants, Asians and
13 Pacific Islanders 16 percent, and African Americans another 14
14 percent; 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, Minorities make up over one-half of the population
20 of high school students in California according to the State
21 Department of Education. These high school students will have
22 the opportunity to make a decision about saving lives and joining
23 the more than 8.5 million Californians who have already signed

1 up with the state-authorized Donate Life California Registry to
2 ensure that their wishes to be organ and tissue donors are
3 recognized and honored; and

4 WHEREAS, Donate Life California has developed a
5 comprehensive Educator Resource Guide that includes many of
6 the health education content standards for California public schools
7 in order to fully inform students that all Californians can register
8 with the Donate Life California Registry when applying for a driver
9 license or identification card at the Department of Motor Vehicles.
10 This Educator Resource Guide includes lesson plans and
11 educational DVDs created specifically for the youth population;
12 and

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

18 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
19 Assembly of the State of California proclaims the entire month of
20 August 2011 as National Minority Donor Awareness Month in
21 California. In doing so, the Assembly of the State of California
22 encourages all California educators to provide their students the
23 opportunity to be fully educated about the decision they will be
24 required to make at the Department of Motor Vehicles, including
25 whether to check "YES" when applying for a driver license or
26 identification card, and about signing up at
27 www.donateLIFEcalifornia.org or www.doneVIDAcalifornia.org;
28 and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
30 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.