

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 201

Recognizing the importance for families to pledge to each other to be organ and tissue donors.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 1999

Mr. BILBRAY (for himself and Mr. GREENWOOD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance for families to pledge to each other to be organ and tissue donors.

Whereas more than 20,000 Americans are given a new chance at life each year through the medical miracle of organ transplantation;

Whereas the number of Americans who could benefit from a transplant is growing by more than 10 percent per year;

Whereas 63,000 men, women, and children are currently on waiting lists for lifesaving organ transplants;

Whereas another man, woman, or child is added to a waiting list every 16 minutes;

Whereas the number of Americans on waiting lists is expected to pass 100,000 early in the 21st century;

Whereas every two hours, one American on the waiting list dies for lack of an available heart, lung, intestine, kidney, pancreas, or liver;

Whereas fewer than one-third of the deaths that could result in the gift of organs actually result in donation;

Whereas even when individuals have indicated a desire to be a donor, those wishes often go unfulfilled;

Whereas checking the organ donation box on a driver's license does not guarantee organ donation;

Whereas the final decision on whether to donate organs is always made by surviving family members;

Whereas the American Society of Transplant Surgeons is urging Americans to discuss the miracle of transplantation as a family, and make a family commitment to organ and tissue donation;

Whereas the likelihood of a family member needing to receive an organ transplant is four times greater than the likelihood that circumstances ever will put a family member in a position to be an organ donor;

Whereas a majority of the Members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, have demonstrated leadership by signing the First Family Pledge, a family commitment to support organ and tissue donation; and

Whereas organizations, such as the First Family Pledge and Coalition on Donation, have demonstrated great leadership by raising the awareness and the importance of organ donations through events such as the First Family Pledge Congress on Organ Tissue Donation held in Washington, D.C., on April 14, 1999: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the importance of families pledg-
3 ing to each other to share their lives as organ and
4 tissue donors; and

5 (2) acknowledges the importance of discussing
6 organ and tissue donation as a family.

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