

H. Res. 94

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

November 8, 1999.

Whereas kidneys are vital organs that clean the blood by removing wastes, and failed kidneys have lost the ability to remove these wastes;

Whereas in the United States more than 250,000 patients with kidney failure, also known as end stage renal disease (ESRD), have died since 1989;

Whereas during 1996, 283,932 patients were in treatment for ESRD, and an additional 73,091 patients began treatment for ESRD;

Whereas the most common cause of ESRD has consistently been diabetes, because the high levels of blood sugar in persons with diabetes cause the kidneys to filter too much blood and leave the kidneys, over time, unable to filter waste products;

Whereas of the patients who began treatment for ESRD in 1996, 43 percent were persons with diabetes;

Whereas ESRD can be treated with dialysis, which artificially cleans the blood but which imposes significant burdens on quality of life, or with a successful kidney transplant operation, which frees the patient from dialysis and brings about a dramatic improvement in quality of life;

Whereas in 1996 the number of kidneys transplanted in the United States was 12,238, with 25 percent of the kidneys donated from biologically related living relatives, 5 percent from spousal or other biologically unrelated living persons, and the remainder from cadavers;

Whereas from 1988 to 1997, the number of patients on the waiting list for a cadaveric kidney transplant increased more than 150 percent, from 13,943 to more than 35,000;

Whereas the annual number of cadaveric kidneys available for transplant has increased only slightly, from 8,327 in 1994 to 8,526 in 1996, an increase of less than 100 such kidneys per year;

Whereas from 1988 to 1997, the annual number of kidneys donated by living persons rose 104 percent, from 1,812 to 3,705; and

Whereas in 1995, the 3-year survival rate for kidney recipients was 82 percent if the donor was a living parent, 85 percent if the donor was a living spouse, 81 percent if the donor was a biologically unrelated living person other than a spouse, and 70 percent if the kidney was cadaveric: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the generous contribution made by each living person who has donated a kidney to save a life; and

(2) acknowledges the advances in medical technology that have enabled living kidney transplantation to

become a viable treatment option for an increasing number of patients with end stage renal disease.

Attest:

Clerk.