

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. RES. 563

Expressing the sense of the House regarding the importance of bone marrow donation, honoring the National Marrow Donor Program for its work in increasing bone marrow donations, and supporting National Marrow Awareness Month, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2002

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (for himself, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. CRANE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BASS, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. CAPPs, Mr. BENTSEN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. SUNUNU) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House regarding the importance of bone marrow donation, honoring the National Marrow Donor Program for its work in increasing bone marrow donations, and supporting National Marrow Awareness Month, and for other purposes.

Whereas each year an estimated 30,000 Americans are diagnosed with life-threatening diseases such as leukemia, for which a marrow or blood stem cell transplant can be a cure;

Whereas when the National Marrow Donor Program was founded in 1986, unrelated donor bone marrow transplantation was an investigational therapy with uncertain benefits;

Whereas the National Marrow Donor Program is the international leader in marrow and blood stem cell transplantation;

Whereas the National Marrow Donor Program has facilitated approximately 15,000 transplants relying on bone marrow donations from volunteer, unrelated individuals during the past 15 years;

Whereas the National Marrow Donor Program has actively recruited a diverse registry of more than 4,000,000 potential volunteer marrow and blood stem cell donors and, at any given time, offers hope to more than 3,000 patients searching its registry;

Whereas the National Marrow Donor Program has worked diligently to increase the number of minority patients receiving transplants each year;

Whereas the National Marrow Donor Program plays an important role in the Nation's defense by actively maintaining a contingency plan to assist the military in treating victims of nuclear, chemical, and biological attacks;

Whereas the National Marrow Donor Program provides support for patients and physicians and conducts research studies aimed at increasing opportunities for and improving outcomes of stem cell transplants; and

Whereas the National Marrow Donor Program and its national and international affiliates are joining together for National Marrow Awareness Month in November to edu-

cate Americans about the importance of becoming a marrow donor: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) encourages all Americans to learn about the importance of bone marrow donation and to become a bone marrow donor by joining the National Marrow Donor Program Registry;

(2) honors the National Marrow Donor Program for its outstanding efforts during the past 15 years to educate Americans about the importance of donating bone marrow, to support research to improve the outcomes of bone marrow and related transplants, and to advocate tirelessly for patients needing bone marrow transplants and their donors;

(3) praises the National Marrow Donor Program for its dedication to increasing the number and diversity of bone marrow donors, which has tripled the number of transplants performed on minority patients since 1995;

(4) commends the millions of Americans who have already joined the National Marrow Donor Program Registry; and

(5) supports the goals of National Marrow Awareness Month, especially efforts to increase the number of minority donors and to educate Americans about bone marrow donation and transplants.

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