

**First Regular Session
Sixty-seventh General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REVISED

LLS NO. R09-0937.01 Leah Bassity

SJR09-038

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Romer,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Looper,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 09-038

101 **CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF ORGAN AND TISSUE DONORS**
102 **THROUGH THE OBSERVATION OF "DONATE LIFE COLORADO**
103 **MONTH".**

1 WHEREAS, April is designated as "National Donate Life Month",
2 which has been observed across the United States since 2003; and

3 WHEREAS, "National Donate Life Month", which was originally
4 observed for a week and known as "National Organ and Tissue Donor
5 Awareness Week", is a time to raise public awareness of the critical need
6 for organ, tissue, marrow, and blood donation and to recognize the
7 altruism and generosity of organ and tissue donors; and

8 WHEREAS, Donate Life Colorado's community, supporters, and
9 volunteers will launch a broad initiative in April 2009 to mobilize citizens
10 of Colorado to register as organ and tissue donors, and the re-launch of
11 the state donor registry by Donate Life Colorado will be at the center of
12 this campaign; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

HOUSE
FinalReading
April 16, 2009

SENATE
FinalReading
April 16, 2009

1 WHEREAS, Through the established recognition of the Donate
2 Life brand, advocates of organ and tissue donation can inspire those who
3 have not made a decision about becoming a donor, and those who may
4 have ruled themselves out as donors, to reconsider the opportunity to
5 "Donate Life", a succinct call to action to register as an organ and tissue
6 donor; and

7 WHEREAS, To date, nearly 450,000 transplants have occurred in
8 the United States since 1988; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the United Network for Organ Sharing,
10 currently more than 100,000 people in the United States are on the
11 waiting list for a lifesaving organ transplant and in October 2008 that
12 number rose above 100,000 for the first time; and

13 WHEREAS, Over 1,800 Coloradans are currently waiting for
14 lifesaving transplants, and 21% of those transplant candidates have been
15 on the waiting list for five years or more; and

16 WHEREAS, On average, 18 people die per day in the United
17 States from the lack of available organs for transplant and 6% of people
18 on the waiting list, amounting to over 7,000 people per year, die before
19 they are able to receive a transplant; and

20 WHEREAS, Donated organs, including the heart, lungs, liver,
21 kidneys, pancreas, and small intestine, are allocated based on the severity
22 of an illness, total time spent on the waiting list, blood type, and match
23 potential; and

24 WHEREAS, A healthy person can become a "living donor" by
25 donating a kidney, a lung, blood, part of the liver or intestine, or bone
26 marrow, and more than 6,000 living donations occur each year; and

27 WHEREAS, The buying and selling of human organs for
28 transplants is illegal in the United States and in most countries, but
29 international black markets for organs are a reality in response to the
30 increased demand for transplants around the world; and

31 WHEREAS, It is important to increase the number of organ and
32 tissue donations to reduce the number of American citizens who take
33 great risks in traveling to other countries seeking black market organs;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, Colorado is recognized as one of the nation's leaders
36 in the percentage of people, currently at 64%, who enroll as registered
37 donors when renewing or receiving their driver's licenses; and

38 WHEREAS, Colorado's multiple state agencies are working to
39 make organ and tissue donor registration more mainstream and accessible
40 by providing access to the donor registry through the state web site; and

41 WHEREAS, Colorado provides targeted outreach and important
42 education to the state's ethnic populations, which tend to have a higher
43 genetic propensity for organ failure; and

1 WHEREAS, Coloradans can register to be organ and tissue donors
2 in the following ways:

3 (1) Online at the Donor Registry, by going to the following web
4 site: www.DonateLifeColorado.org;

5 (2) In person at the Division of Motor Vehicles (or online at the
6 DMV web site);

7 (3) By calling 888-256-4386 and requesting a paper donor registry
8 form; or

9 (4) Through the printed Colorado state income tax booklet; and

10 WHEREAS, One deceased donor can save the lives of up to 8
11 individuals through organ donation and more than 100 people through the
12 lifesaving and healing gift of tissue donation; now, therefore,

13 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly*
14 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

15 That we, the members of the General Assembly, hereby:

16 (1) Designate the month of April as "Donate Life Colorado
17 Month"; and

18 (2) Recognize the significant contributions of advocates of organ
19 and tissue donation, as their efforts have ultimately saved lives through
20 educating the public and registering people as organ and tissue donors;
21 and

22 (3) Express gratitude to the many Coloradans who have
23 committed to fulfilling the critical role of organ and tissue donors; and

24 (4) Urge Colorado citizens to consider registering as organ and
25 tissue donors; and

26 (5) Encourage all state agencies to provide access to the donor
27 registry for Colorado's citizens.

28 *Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent*
29 *to Joan Henneberry, Executive Director of the Department of Health Care*
30 *Policy and Financing; Harris Sherman, Executive Director of the*
31 *Department of Natural Resources; Dean Winstanley, Colorado State*
32 *Parks Director; Rich Gonzalez, Executive Director of the Department of*
33 *Personnel and Administration; James B. Martin, Executive Director of the*
34 *Department of Public Health and Environment; Peter A. Weir, Executive*
35 *Director of the Department of Public Safety; Roxanne Huber, Executive*
36 *Director of the Department of Revenue; and Bernie Buescher, the*
37 *Secretary of State of Colorado.*