



2019 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 17

March 28, 2019 - Introduced by Representatives BALLWEG, CABRERA, CONSIDINE, CROWLEY, DITTRICH, DUCHOW, EDMING, HEBL, HESSELBEIN, HORLACHER, JAGLER, JAMES, KRUG, KULP, MAGNAFICI, MILROY, MURPHY, MURSAU, MYERS, POPE, PRONSCHINSKE, QUINN, RIEMER, RODRIGUEZ, SARGENT, SHANKLAND, SINICKI, SKOWRONSKI, SPIROS, TAUCHEN, THIESFELDT, VRUWINK and WITTKE, cosponsored by Senators DARLING, BEWLEY, COWLES, JACQUE, JOHNSON, MARKLEIN, MILLER, OLSEN, RINGHAND, SCHACHTNER, SMITH, L. TAYLOR, WANGGAARD and WIRCH. Referred to Committee on Rules.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming April 2019 as Donate Life Month in the state of Wisconsin.

2 Whereas, each year since 2003, during the month of April we recognize the
3 critical need for organ, eye, and tissue donation and honor those individuals who
4 have donated life; and

5 Whereas, the list of people awaiting organ transplants in Wisconsin numbers
6 almost 2,000 names, nearly half of whom have waited more than two years, and
7 nationally, nearly 114,000 individuals are on the national organ transplant waiting
8 list; and

9 Whereas, every ten minutes, another man, woman, or child is added to the
10 national transplant waiting list; and

11 Whereas, there were 780 transplants performed in Wisconsin in 2018 from the
12 generosity of 367 donors and donor families; and

13 Whereas, despite the success of current efforts, 22 people die in the United
14 States each day waiting for a donor organ; and

1 Whereas, up to 60,000 people each year are diagnosed with leukemia or other
2 blood diseases, and approximately 50,000 will not find a marrow donor match within
3 their family and must rely upon the generosity of strangers; and

4 Whereas, nearly 38,000 units of blood are used in the United States every day
5 and blood supply reserves are often low because only 5 percent of the population
6 donates blood regularly; and

7 Whereas, a single individual's donation of heart, lungs, liver, kidneys,
8 pancreas, and small intestine can save up to eight lives, and donation of tissue can
9 help save or enhance the lives of as many as 75 recipients; and

10 Whereas, almost every individual, regardless of age, is a potential organ, tissue,
11 bone marrow, or blood donor; and

12 Whereas, transplantation has become an element of mainstream medicine that
13 prolongs and enhances life; now, therefore, be it

14 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
15 Wisconsin legislature proclaim April 2019 as Donate Life Month in the state of
16 Wisconsin, and commend this observance to all citizens; and, be it further

17 ***Resolved, That*** the members of the legislature call upon our citizens to learn
18 about the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation, to sign up
19 to be a donor in English or Spanish at the Wisconsin donor registry,
20 DonorRegistry.Wisconsin.gov, or through the Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles,
21 and to discuss such decision with their families and friends; and, be it further

22 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
23 resolution to Donate Life Wisconsin, Inc.