

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 26**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

SYNOPSIS

Urges U.S. President and Congress to enact legislation giving registered organ donors priority in organ allocation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the President and the
2 Congress of the United States to enact legislation requiring that
3 registered organ donors have priority over those who are not
4 registered donors when donated organs are allocated to potential
5 recipients.
6
7 **WHEREAS**, Although approximately 45 percent of American adults are
8 registered organ donors, the number of organs donated is
9 insufficient to meet the needs of the many seriously ill children and
10 adults across the country who require organ transplants; and
11 **WHEREAS**, There are currently over 122,000 people waiting for organ
12 transplants in the United States, on average, 22 people die every
13 day while waiting for an organ transplant, and one organ donor can
14 save as many as eight lives; and
15 **WHEREAS**, At least 2.5 million residents of this State have registered
16 as organ or tissue donors, but because of the fragility of transplant
17 organs and medical exigencies, many of those who are registered
18 organ donors will ultimately be unable to donate an organ due to
19 illness, advanced age, or other unforeseeable circumstances that
20 may make their organs unsuitable for transplantation; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Among Western nations, Israel historically had the fewest
22 registered organ donors, and many Israelis traveled abroad for
23 organ transplant surgery; and
24 **WHEREAS**, In 2010, the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, passed
25 legislation that, among other things, established a three-tiered
26 system of transplant priority as follows: first priority for transplant
27 organs is given to living donors and their family members; second
28 priority is given to those who have been registered as organ donors
29 for three years or more; and third priority is given to the family
30 members of registered donors; and
31 **WHEREAS**, Thereafter, the number of Israelis who registered to
32 become organ donors increased significantly, with the number of
33 Israeli living organ donors between 2011 and 2013 increasing 67
34 percent over the preceding three-year period; and
35 **WHEREAS**, In 1984, Congress passed the National Organ Transplant
36 Act, which established the Organ Procurement and Transplant
37 Network to maintain a national registry for organ match, develop
38 policies regarding organ transplantation, and to allocate organs
39 available for transplant to those on the waiting list in accordance
40 with established medical criteria; and
41 **WHEREAS**, Policies that increase the numbers of organ donors and
42 those registered to be organ donors provide life-saving support and
43 hope to the many patients across the country in urgent need of an
44 organ or tissue transplant, and to those untold numbers who will
45 need a transplant in the future; and
46 **WHEREAS**, In the interest of increasing the number of registered organ
47 and tissue donors in the United States and to address the current

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1 shortage of organs and tissues available for transplantation, it is
2 fitting that those who commit to donating an organ by registering as
3 an organ donor are recognized for their sacrifice by benefitting
4 from priority consideration, to the extent medically appropriate, in
5 the event they themselves are in need of an organ transplant; now,
6 therefore,

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8 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the
9 General Assembly concurring):

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11 1. The Legislature of New Jersey respectfully urges the
12 President and the Congress of the United States to enact legislation
13 that gives registered organ donors priority over those who are not
14 registered organ donors, when organs are allocated to medically
15 appropriate recipients.

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17 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
18 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
19 Secretary of the Senate to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the
20 United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the
21 United States House of Representatives, and every member of
22 Congress elected from this State.

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25 STATEMENT

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27 This resolution urges the President and the Congress of the
28 United States to enact legislation requiring that registered organ
29 donors receive priority over those who are not registered organ
30 donors when organs are allocated to potential medically appropriate
31 transplant recipients. At least 2.5 million New Jersey residents are
32 registered organ or tissue donors, but because of the fragility of
33 transplant organs and medical exigencies, many of those who are
34 registered organ donors will ultimately be unable to donate an organ
35 due to illness, advanced age, or other reasons. Currently, over
36 122,000 people are waiting for organ transplants in the United
37 States, on average, 22 people die every day while waiting for an
38 organ transplant, and one organ donor can save as many as eight
39 lives.

40 Recent legislation in Israel, among other things, established a
41 three-tiered system of transplant priority, in which first priority is
42 given to living organ donors and their family members; second
43 priority is given to those who have been registered as organ donors
44 for three years or more; and third priority is given to the family
45 members of registered donors. Thereafter, the number of Israeli live
46 organ donors increased dramatically. In an effort to similarly
47 increase organ donation and registration in the United States, this

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1 resolution recognizes that those who commit to donating an organ
2 by registering as an organ donor should be recognized for their
3 sacrifice by benefitting from priority consideration, to the extent
4 medically appropriate, in the event that they themselves are in need
5 of a donated organ.