

**RESOLUTION URGING AVAILABILITY OF
TRANSPLANT ORGANS THROUGH COMMUNITY
PLEDGE PROGRAMS**

2001 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Mike Dmitrich

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor urges Utah's communities, businesses, educators, service clubs, and interfaith organizations to lead the way in organizing efforts to raise public awareness and education regarding organ and tissue donation to save lives.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, Utah's Coalition for Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation, in partnership with The Quest for the Gift of Life Foundation, is implementing a statewide, community-based pledge program to involve local governments, businesses, communities, service clubs, educators, and interfaith councils to combine efforts in accomplishing meaningful initiatives that will raise public awareness and education regarding organ transplantation;

WHEREAS, the National Coalition for Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation published statistics that show 70,000 people are currently waiting for a life-saving organ transplant with only 6,000 organ donations taking place annually, resulting in 12-16 lives lost daily due to lack of a needed organ;

WHEREAS, 30% of driver's license donor registrants, upon an unexpected death, do not become donors because their next of kin were unaware of their desire to donate or their next of kin chose not to donate regardless of the signed donor registration card; and

WHEREAS, enough organs are available but cannot be accessed due to a lack of education and a clear understanding about organ and tissue donation, including the misconception that donations are incompatible with religious beliefs:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, urges Utah's local governments, communities, businesses, educators, service clubs, and interfaith organizations to pledge to join in "leading the way" by helping to raise

public awareness and education regarding organ and tissue donation for the purpose of saving lives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor support a spring media event announcing that Utah is committed to lead the way as a model for other states to follow in raising public awareness and education, through meaningful organ transplant initiatives, to help eliminate the existing shortage of transplant organs and to provide all potential recipients a second chance of life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah Association of Counties, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, Utah's Chambers of Commerce, the Utah State Office of Education, the Utah Department of Health, the Utah Coalition for Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation, the Quest for the Gift of Life Foundation, the Utah Attorney General's Office, the Salt Lake City Mayor's Office, and the Salt Lake County Mayor's Office.