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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 108 Session of  
2011

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INTRODUCED BY PETRARCA, MARCH 3, 2011

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH  
3, 2011

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 6, 2011, as "Pennsylvania Organ and Tissue  
2 Donor Awareness Day."

3 WHEREAS, Organ and tissue transplantation has been recognized  
4 as a corrective and lifesaving medical procedure; and

5 WHEREAS, Each person who donates organs and tissue can  
6 potentially save or enhance more than 50 lives and take eight  
7 people off the organ transplant waiting list; and

8 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 110,000 people are  
9 waiting for lifesaving organ transplants in the United States;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Approximately 8,000 individuals in Pennsylvania are  
12 awaiting lifesaving organ donations; and

13 WHEREAS, On average, one person will die each day in  
14 Pennsylvania waiting for lifesaving organ and tissue  
15 transplants; and

16 WHEREAS, Each year approximately 6,600 individuals in the  
17 United States give the gift of life through organ donation after  
18 death; and

1       WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has 17 transplant centers and is  
2 recognized as a world leader in organ and tissue  
3 transplantation; and

4       WHEREAS, State law enables citizens to donate their organs  
5 and tissues through placing the donor designation on their  
6 driver's licenses or State identification cards and also allows  
7 relatives to consent to the donation of organs and tissues of a  
8 deceased family member; and

9       WHEREAS, A vital component of the continuation and  
10 advancement of organ transplantation is the recovery of donor  
11 organs and tissues; and

12       WHEREAS, The lifesaving work of transplant team medical  
13 professionals and researchers to improve surgical techniques and  
14 antirejection drugs has resulted in a significantly increased  
15 success rate for organ transplantation; and

16       WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is a national and international leader  
17 in the field of donation and transplantation, but the number of  
18 people in need of transplants far exceeds the number of organs  
19 and the amount of tissue available; and

20       WHEREAS, Despite the progress made in Pennsylvania's Organ  
21 and Tissue Donor Awareness Program, the growing demand for  
22 donated organs and tissues for transplantation represents a  
23 public health issue which merits action; and

24       WHEREAS, If Pennsylvania is to remain a leader in organ and  
25 tissue donation and transplantation it is necessary that the  
26 pronouncements and public policies of State government both  
27 encourage and promote organ and tissue donation; therefore be it

28       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April  
29 6, 2011, as "Pennsylvania Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Day";  
30 and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all  
2       Pennsylvanians to designate themselves as an organ and tissue  
3       donor on their Pennsylvania driver's licenses or State  
4       identification cards or by registering online at  
5       www.donatelife-pa.org and to share this decision with their  
6       families and friends.