**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE APRIL 12, 2017 AS “DONOR DAY” IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA; TO HONOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE MADE THE DECISION TO GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE; TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE EXTREME NEED FOR ORGAN, EYE, AND TISSUE DONATION; AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENTS TO TAKE ACTION AND SIGN UP ON SOUTH CAROLINA’S ORGAN AND TISSUE DONOR REGISTRY AT THEIR LOCAL SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES OFFICE OR AT DONATE LIFE SOUTH CAROLINA’S WEBSITE.

Whereas, one of the most meaningful gifts that a human being can bestow upon another is the gift of life; and

Whereas, more than one hundred twenty thousand men, women, and children in the United States await life-saving or life-enhancing organ transplants, of whom one thousand are residents of South Carolina; and

Whereas, nine hundred five of those patients are currently awaiting a kidney transplant in the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, the critical donor shortage remains a public health crisis, as a new patient is added to the national waiting list for an organ transplant every ten minutes; and

Whereas, an average of twenty-two people die daily due to the lack of available organs; and

Whereas, living donation can provide families the comfort of knowing that the gift of donated organs, blood, and bone marrow endows another person with renewed hope for a healthy life; and

Whereas, those who donate are donating life and thus performing the ultimate act of generosity and kindness that South Carolina citizens can perform; and

Whereas, Donate Life South Carolina and Sharing Hope SC are the State’s non-profit organizations dedicated to promoting awareness about the need for organ and tissue donation; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate supports Donate Life South Carolina and Sharing Hope SC’s life-saving mission. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, declare April 12, 2017 as “Donor Day” in the State of South Carolina; honor all those who have made the decision to give the gift of life; focus attention on the extreme need for organ, eye, and tissue donation; and encourage all residents to take action and sign up on South Carolina’s organ and tissue donor registry at their local South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles office or at Donate Life South Carolina’s website.

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