**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF APRIL 2010 AS “DONATE LIFE MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL SOUTH CAROLINA CITIZENS TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF ORGAN, TISSUE, AND EYE DONATION, TO SIGN UP ON THE SOUTH CAROLINA ORGAN AND TISSUE DONOR REGISTRY, AND TO DISCUSS ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

Whereas, giving life through organ, tissue, and eye donation to someone facing death or living with a disability or blindness is the ultimate act of generosity and kindness that we as South Carolina citizens can perform; and

Whereas, more than 106,000 Americans and over 1,000 South Carolina citizens are currently waiting for a life‑saving organ donation; and

Whereas, approximately 28,000 Americans received a life‑saving transplant last year, but over 9,000 Americans died because an organ was not available for them; and

Whereas, every eleven minutes another patient is added to the national organ transplant waiting list, and the critical donor shortage remains a public health crisis; and

Whereas, one organ and tissue donor can save or enhance the lives of over fifty people; and

Whereas, organ, tissue, and eye donation can provide families, tragically confronted by the death of a loved one, the comfort of knowing the gift of donated organs and tissues gives others the renewed hope for a healthy life; and

Whereas, LifePoint and Donate Life South Carolina are non‑profit organizations dedicated to educating South Carolina citizens about the benefits of organ, tissue, and eye donation and transplantation, and to encourage them to register to become organ, tissue, and eye donors; and

Whereas, everyone can potentially become an organ, tissue, and eye donor, and South Carolina has a donor registry system allowing residents to register their legal consent to save lives through organ and tissue donation at *www.Every11Minutes.org* or through the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles; and

Whereas, LifePoint, Inc. works in partnership with South Carolina hospitals and healthcare providers to emotionally support and educate potential donor families and to coordinate the donation of organs, tissue, and eyes of South Carolina donors. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, designate the month of April 2010 as “Donate Life Month” in South Carolina, and to encourage all South Carolina citizens to recognize the importance of organ, tissue, and eye donation, to sign up on the South Carolina Organ and Tissue Donor Registry, and to discuss donation with their families.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to LifePoint, Inc. and Donate Life South Carolina.

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