**A** **HOUSE 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; SIGN UP ON THE SOUTH CAROLINA ORGAN AND TISSUE DONOR REGISTRY; AND 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 one hundred six thousand Americans and more than one thousand citizens of South Carolina are currently waiting for a life‑saving organ donation; and

Whereas, approximately twenty‑eight thousand Americans received a life‑saving transplant last year, but over nine thousand 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, tissue, and eye donor can save or enhance the lives of more than fifty people; and

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

Whereas, LifePoint, Inc. and Donate Life South Carolina are nonprofit organizations dedicated to educating the people of South Carolina about the benefits of organ, tissue, and eye donation and transplantation and to encouraging South Carolinians to register as potential 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 that allows residents to register their legal consent to save lives through organ and tissue donation at *www.Every11Minutes.org* or the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles; and

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

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

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