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HOUSE MEMORIAL 116

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Monica Youngblood

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE MOTOR VEHICLE  
DIVISION OF THE TAXATION AND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST NEW  
MEXICO DONOR SERVICES IN EDUCATING NEW MEXICANS ABOUT GIVING  
THE "GIFT OF LIFE" BY REGISTERING TO BE ORGAN AND TISSUE  
DONORS.

WHEREAS, April is national "Donate Life Month", a  
celebration of those who provide vital organ, cornea and tissue  
donations, and a time of new hope for the growing list of men,  
women and children who still need a life-saving organ, cornea  
or tissue transplant; and

WHEREAS, one organ donor can save the lives of nine  
people, and one tissue donor can improve the lives of fifty  
people; and

WHEREAS, transplanted organs include kidneys, liver,

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1 heart, lungs, pancreas and intestines; and

2 WHEREAS, transplanted tissues include corneas, heart  
3 valves, skin, bone, tendons and veins; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2014, more than one hundred twenty-three  
5 thousand people awaited life-saving transplants in the United  
6 States, including seven hundred fifty-seven in New Mexico; and

7 WHEREAS, a new name is added to the national donor waiting  
8 list every ten minutes, and eighteen patients die each day  
9 awaiting a transplant because the organ they needed was not  
10 available in time; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2014, there were fifty-four New Mexicans who  
12 made an organ donation, resulting in one hundred forty-nine  
13 life-saving organ transplants; and

14 WHEREAS, the quality of life of over seven thousand  
15 individuals will be dramatically improved as a result of New  
16 Mexicans who donated tissue; and

17 WHEREAS, the gift of sight was given to those needing a  
18 transplant by three hundred twenty-two New Mexico donors; and

19 WHEREAS, minorities represent seventy-two percent of organ  
20 transplant candidates in New Mexico; and

21 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, Hispanics represent fifty percent  
22 of individuals awaiting kidney transplants, and Native  
23 Americans represent nineteen percent of patients awaiting  
24 kidney transplants; and

25 WHEREAS, minorities are three to five times more likely to

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1 suffer from conditions that lead to organ failure, such as  
2 diabetes, hypertension and hepatitis; and

3 WHEREAS, many New Mexico residents requiring liver  
4 transplantation must leave the state for this life-saving  
5 surgery and incur the cost of relocation while waiting for a  
6 transplant; and

7 WHEREAS, the goal of donor and tissue organ awareness and  
8 education is to increase the number of individuals choosing to  
9 donate organs and tissue while decreasing the waiting period  
10 for those individuals in need of an organ or tissue transplant;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, organ donors can register through New Mexico  
13 donor services or through a motor vehicle division branch;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department  
16 of health and the motor vehicle division of the taxation and  
17 revenue department be requested to assist New Mexico donor  
18 services in educating New Mexicans about the importance of  
19 giving the "gift of life" by registering to be organ and tissue  
20 donors; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the secretary of health, the secretary of  
23 taxation and revenue, the director of the motor vehicle  
24 division of the taxation and revenue department and the  
25 executive director of New Mexico donor services.

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