



1999 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16

May 11, 1999 – Introduced by Senators COWLES, BAUMGART, DRZEWIECKI, ROESSLER, ROSENZWEIG, PANZER, DARLING, SCHULTZ, RUDE, FARROW and HUELSMAN, cosponsored by Representatives UNDERHEIM, F. LASEE, URBAN, OLSEN, BOCK, RHOADES, OWENS, KLUSMAN, STONE, BLACK, LADWIG, HAHN, NASS, GOETSCH, MUSSER, ALBERS, LA FAVE, SYKORA, GUNDERSON, WASSERMAN, SPILLNER and MONTGOMERY. Referred to Committee on Health, Utilities, Veterans and Military Affairs.

1 **Relating to:** declaring opposition to the development of a national organ allocation
2 policy that interferes with the ability to encourage donation of and to use
3 transportable organs at the local level.

4 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That:***

5 Whereas, the citizens of Wisconsin and its hospitals, health care personnel and
6 medical schools share a strong commitment to organ, bone and tissue donation; and

7 Whereas, Wisconsin is home to 2 of the nation's most productive organ
8 procurement organizations, namely the University of Wisconsin Organ Procurement
9 Organization, based in Madison, and Wisconsin Donor Network, based in
10 Milwaukee; and

11 Whereas, Wisconsin's 2 organ procurement organizations were ranked 1st (in
12 the case of the University of Wisconsin Organ Procurement Organization) and 6th
13 (in the case of Wisconsin Donor Network) in identifying organ donors and matching
14 them with patients among all 61 organ banks across the country in 1996 and 1997,
15 in an independent study conducted by the Associated Press in 1998; and

1 Whereas, the skill and efficiency of the state’s organ procurement organizations
2 have made it possible for outstanding transplant programs to be developed at the
3 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics in Madison and at Children’s Hospital
4 of Wisconsin, Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital and St. Lukes Medical Center,
5 all in Milwaukee; and

6 Whereas, in 1998 the Wisconsin legislature passed and the governor signed into
7 law landmark legislation under 1997 Wisconsin Act 305, which will stimulate
8 greater organ, bone and tissue donation, encourage the state’s transplant programs
9 to work together cooperatively, and foster increased cooperation among Wisconsin’s
10 organ procurement organizations and transplant programs and their counterparts
11 in neighboring states and the surrounding region; and

12 Whereas, the federal department of health and human services is again
13 advancing a national organ distribution scheme which would disrupt the historic
14 link between organ procurement organizations and their related local transplant
15 programs; and

16 Whereas, creation of a national organ distribution scheme would likely force
17 Wisconsin residents to travel great distances to seek life-saving organ transplants
18 and would likely interfere with the state’s efforts to increase organ, bone and tissue
19 donation in the state; and

20 Whereas, one of the factors critical to the success of an organ transplant is the
21 speed with which a donated organ can be transplanted, which means that any policy
22 that encourages donated organs to travel great distances prior to transplantation
23 will almost inevitably result in a worse prognosis for the transplant recipient; and

1 Whereas, the only effective way to reduce the shortage of transplantable organs
2 is to encourage greater donation in those geographic areas where such shortages
3 occur; now, therefore, be it

4 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the
5 Wisconsin legislature hereby declare their opposition to the development of a
6 national organ allocation policy that interferes with the ability of organ procurement
7 organizations and transplant programs to encourage donation of and to use
8 transportable organs at the local level; and, be it further

9 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
10 resolution to each member of the Wisconsin congressional delegation and to the
11 President of the United States.

12

(END)