

## 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

