

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

JOINT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE APRIL AS DONATE LIFE MONTH IN MAINE

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Transplantation has designated the month of April as National Donate Life Month to promote organ, tissue, blood and bone marrow donation awareness; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2006 Donate Life America launched the Donor Designation Collaborative, a national effort to improve donation rates by ensuring each state has an effective system for allowing individuals to designate themselves as donors; and

WHEREAS, this Donor Designation Collaborative has focused on encouraging state teams to test, adopt and share best practices that measurably increase the number of registered donors and since 2006 registries have been founded in every state of the Union; and

WHEREAS, having a month designated as Donate Life Month will help Maine reach the goal of having as many adults as possible add their names to the Maine Donate Life Registry; and

WHEREAS, more than 105,000 people in America are waiting for lifesaving transplants, and over 6,600 will die this year; and

WHEREAS, last year more than 28,000 lives were saved through organ transplants and more than 1,000,000 life-enhancing tissue transplants are performed each year, offering patients a new chance at healthy, productive and normal lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, recognize the month of April in Maine to be Donate Life Month and urge and request the citizens of Maine to sign on to the Maine Donate Life Registry; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitable copy of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Maine Donate Life Registry.