

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 61**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 10, 2022

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator RICHARD J. CODEY**  
**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges U.S. President and Congress to enact legislation giving registered organ donors priority in organ allocation.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



SCR61 CODEY

2

1   **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the President and the  
2   Congress of the United States to enact legislation requiring that  
3   registered organ donors have priority over those who are not  
4   registered donors when donated organs are allocated to potential  
5   recipients.

6  
7   **WHEREAS**, Although approximately 45 percent of American adults are  
8   registered organ donors, the number of organs donated is  
9   insufficient to meet the needs of the many seriously ill children and  
10   adults across the country who require organ transplants; and

11   **WHEREAS**, There are currently over 122,000 people waiting for organ  
12   transplants in the United States, on average, 22 people die every  
13   day while waiting for an organ transplant, and one organ donor can  
14   save as many as eight lives; and

15   **WHEREAS**, At least 2.5 million residents of this State have registered  
16   as organ or tissue donors, but because of the fragility of transplant  
17   organs and medical exigencies, many of those who are registered  
18   organ donors will ultimately be unable to donate an organ due to  
19   illness, advanced age, or other unforeseeable circumstances that  
20   may make their organs unsuitable for transplantation; and

21   **WHEREAS**, Among Western nations, Israel historically had the fewest  
22   registered organ donors, and many Israelis traveled abroad for  
23   organ transplant surgery; and

24   **WHEREAS**, In 2010, the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, passed  
25   legislation that, among other things, established a three-tiered  
26   system of transplant priority as follows: first priority for transplant  
27   organs is given to living donors and their family members; second  
28   priority is given to those who have been registered as organ donors  
29   for three years or more; and third priority is given to the family  
30   members of registered donors; and

31   **WHEREAS**, Thereafter, the number of Israelis who registered to  
32   become organ donors increased significantly, with the number of  
33   Israeli living organ donors between 2011 and 2013 increasing 67  
34   percent over the preceding three-year period; and

35   **WHEREAS**, In 1984, Congress passed the National Organ Transplant  
36   Act, which established the Organ Procurement and Transplant  
37   Network to maintain a national registry for organ match, develop  
38   policies regarding organ transplantation, and to allocate organs  
39   available for transplant to those on the waiting list in accordance  
40   with established medical criteria; and

41   **WHEREAS**, Policies that increase the numbers of organ donors and  
42   those registered to be organ donors provide life-saving support and  
43   hope to the many patients across the country in urgent need of an  
44   organ or tissue transplant, and to those untold numbers who will  
45   need a transplant in the future; and

46   **WHEREAS**, In the interest of increasing the number of registered organ  
47   and tissue donors in the United States and to address the current  
48   shortage of organs and tissues available for transplantation, it is

SCR61 CODEY

3

1 fitting that those who commit to donating an organ by registering as  
2 an organ donor are recognized for their sacrifice by benefitting  
3 from priority consideration, to the extent medically appropriate, in  
4 the event they themselves are in need of an organ transplant; now,  
5 therefore,

6

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the  
8 General Assembly concurring):

9

10 1. The Legislature of New Jersey respectfully urges the  
11 President and the Congress of the United States to enact legislation  
12 that gives registered organ donors priority over those who are not  
13 registered organ donors, when organs are allocated to medically  
14 appropriate recipients.

15

16 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
17 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the  
18 Secretary of the Senate to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the  
19 United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the  
20 United States House of Representatives, and every member of  
21 Congress elected from this State.

22

23

24

STATEMENT

25

26 This resolution urges the President and the Congress of the  
27 United States to enact legislation requiring that registered organ  
28 donors receive priority over those who are not registered organ  
29 donors when organs are allocated to potential medically appropriate  
30 transplant recipients. At least 2.5 million New Jersey residents are  
31 registered organ or tissue donors, but because of the fragility of  
32 transplant organs and medical exigencies, many of those who are  
33 registered organ donors will ultimately be unable to donate an organ  
34 due to illness, advanced age, or other reasons. Currently, over  
35 122,000 people are waiting for organ transplants in the United  
36 States, on average, 22 people die every day while waiting for an  
37 organ transplant, and one organ donor can save as many as eight  
38 lives.

39

40 Recent legislation in Israel, among other things, established a  
41 three-tiered system of transplant priority, in which first priority is  
42 given to living organ donors and their family members; second  
43 priority is given to those who have been registered as organ donors  
44 for three years or more; and third priority is given to the family  
45 members of registered donors. Thereafter, the number of Israeli live  
46 organ donors increased dramatically. In an effort to similarly  
47 increase organ donation and registration in the United States, this  
resolution recognizes that those who commit to donating an organ

**SCR61 CODEY**

4

- 1 by registering as an organ donor should be recognized for their
- 2 sacrifice by benefitting from priority consideration, to the extent
- 3 medically appropriate, in the event that they themselves are in need
- 4 of a donated organ.