

**R012-0809**

10     **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING ORGAN PROCUREMENT BY PRESUMED**  
20     **CONSENT**

30     **WHEREAS:** Today there are over 98,000 people on the waiting list in need of organs  
40     (i.e. kidneys, livers, pancreas, hearts, lungs, and intestines); and,

50     **WHEREAS:** With few organ donations, about 13,000 in 2007, it can be concluded that  
60     the informed consent system is not meeting the demand; and,

70     **WHEREAS:** The average wait of five to eight years is expected to double by 2010; and,

80     **WHEREAS:** Only 30 to 40 percent of Americans admit to being donors on their driver's  
90     licenses. And this low percentage coupled with other factors contributes to the death of  
100    one person on the organ recipient waiting list every 90 minutes; and,

110    **WHEREAS:** The three countries with the highest organ donation rates, Spain, Austria,  
120    and Portugal, have presumed consent law; and,

130    **WHEREAS:** Data from 34 countries from 1998 to 2002, shows the countries with the  
140    presumed consent law increased organ donations by 12% -as compared to countries  
150    without the presumed consent law.

160    **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges  
170    President Bush and the Federal Government to establish a federal system of organ  
180    procurement by presumed consent. Making any deceased person over 18 years old an  
190    automatic donor, unless he or she explicitly objects.

200    **MANDATES:** President George W. Bush  
210                    Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House  
220                    Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader  
230                    Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader  
240                    Steny Hoyer, House Majority Leader  
250                    John Boehner, House Minority Leader

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