

HCR

51

Revision Date: _____ Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency
 Title: Organ and Tissue Donation Week BRU: _____
 Component: _____

Sponsor: Rep. Gruenberg
 Requestor: House State Affairs Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING | FY 93 | FY 94 | FY 95 | FY 96 | FY 97 | FY 98 |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TRAVEL | | | | | | |
| CONTRACTUAL | | | | | | |
| SUPPLIES | | | | | | |
| EQUIPMENT | | | | | | |
| LAND & STRUCTURES | | | | | | |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS | | | | | | |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAPITAL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| REVENUE | | | | | | |
| FUND SOURCE: | | | | | | |

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GENERAL FUND | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| FEDERAL FUNDS | | | | | | |
| OTHER | | | | | | |
| FUND SOURCE: | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

POSITIONS: N/A

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| FULL-TIME | | | | | | |
| PART-TIME | | | | | | |
| TEMPORARY | | | | | | |

Estimate of current year impact: 0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: House State Affairs Committee Phone: 465-4859

Division: _____ Date: 2/24/92

Approved by Commissioner: Representative Gene Kubina, Chairman *Gene Kubina*

Agency: House State Affairs Committee Date: 2/24/92

State of Alaska

House Majority Leader

COMMITTEES

HOUSE JUDICIARY

HOUSE RULES

HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

MILITARY AND VET AFFAIRS

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members Senate HESS Committee

FROM: Representative Max Gruenberg *Max*

RE: Sponsor Statement HCR 51

DATE: March 24, 1992

I would very much appreciate your support of HCR 51, "Designating April 19-15, 1992 as Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week"

Nationwide, and in Alaska there are 17,900 people awaiting a kidney transplant, 5,000 are awaiting corneal transplants 1,200 liver transplants 1,800 are awaiting heart transplants, 400 pancreas transplants, 250 heart-lung transplants and 300 awaiting lung transplants. Yet, approximately one third of the people needing organ transplants will die for want of a donated organ.

HCR 51 designates the week of April 19-25, 1992 as "Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week", urges' the Governor to proclaim an "Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week during and appropriate time period each year, and encourages the commissioners of the state departments to urge all residents of the state to participate.

If you have any questions about this bill, please contact Stan Robbins in my office (4968)

Thank you.

"IT'S A MIRACLE"

Approximately every thirty minutes, someone in the United States needs an organ transplant. Organ transplantation is one of the most remarkable medical success stories in the history of medicine. Transplants of kidneys, livers, hearts, pancreases, lungs and heart-lungs are now considered a widely accepted part of medical treatment. Transplantation owes a great deal of success to people who realize that they can help save another person's life, simply by signing an organ donor card.

Q: Why are organ and tissue donations needed?

A: Each year the number of people waiting for transplants increases dramatically. This year, tens of thousands of people will need corneal, skin and bone grafts. More than 23,000 will need kidneys, hearts, livers, heart-lungs, lungs or pancreases. Those in need range from babies to teenagers, young adults to those looking ahead to their retirement. Transplantation is their only realistic hope for a healthy and productive life.

Q: Can anyone sign an organ donor card?

A: Everyone should consider himself or herself a potential organ donor, regardless of age or medical history. Individuals under the age of 18 may sign a donor card with the consent of their parent or guardian. Parents should keep their children's donor cards with their own, perhaps in their wallet.

Q: Do these donor cards have the same validity as my driver's license?

A: If an organ donor card is included with your driver's license, both are legal documents and show your intent to become an organ donor. They are equally valid.

Q: If I move to another state, is my donor card still valid?

A: Yes. The uniform organ donor card is valid in all 50 states. Since there is no registration of potential donors, there is no need to change the card.

Q: What do I do with the card?

A: Keep the card in your wallet, perhaps with your driver's license. In addition, discuss your decision with your family. Hospital personnel will always ask for the consent of the next-of-kin before procuring the organs. If your family knows you signed a donor card or remembers you expressing a desire to donate, they will most likely give their consent.

- Q: If I decide to become an organ donor, will that affect the level of my medical care?**
- A:** Absolutely not. In order for someone to be eligible for organ donation, they must be declared "brain dead". The determination of brain death is made based on strict medical and legal standards. This determination must be made by a physician who is not involved with organ donation or organ transplantation. Organ recovery takes place only after every effort has been exhausted to save the life of the patient.
- Q: What is brain death?**
- A:** In the case of brain death, the brain has stopped functioning and artificial life support systems are used to maintain heartbeat and breathing. If these support systems are removed, all vital body functions stop. Brain death is irreversible, and is an accepted medical, ethical and legal principle.
- Q: What organs and tissues can be donated?**
- A:** One person's gift can benefit several people. The majority of needed organs are donated by individuals at the time of death. Needed organs include kidneys, hearts, livers, lungs, and pancreases. Tissue donations include eyes, skin, heart valves, bone marrow and bone. In certain circumstances, a kidney or bone marrow tissue may be received from a "living related" donor. This involves donating to a close family member. Kidney donation from those who are not close relatives is discouraged.
- Q: Does my religion support organ and tissue donation?**
- A:** Organ and tissue donation is consistent with the beliefs of all major religions. If you have any questions, please discuss them with your minister, priest or rabbi.
- Q: Who will receive my donated organs?**
- A:** Potential recipients are identified using the UNOS national computer system. The computer generates a list of patients ranked according to strict medical criteria and urgency of need. Donor and recipient identity is confidential, although some basic information may be shared.
- Q: What can I do in my area to promote the need for donor organs and tissues?**
- A:** To find out how to publicize the critical need for organ donors in your area, please contact your local organ procurement agency, tissue bank or UNOS.

UNOS
1100 Boulders Parkway, Suite 500
P.O. Box 13770
Dept. DB
Richmond, VA 23225
1-800-24-DONOR

Did you know?

Nationwide there are approximately:

17,900 people awaiting a kidney transplant

5,000 people needing corneal transplants

1,200 people awaiting a liver transplant

1,800 people awaiting a heart transplant

400 people in need of a pancreas transplant

250 patients awaiting heart-lung transplants

300 people needing lung transplants

Plus, there are thousands who are in need of skin grafts, heart valve replacements, bone transplants and other tissue grafts. Last year the Northwest Organ Procurement Agency reported recovering 196 kidneys, 47 hearts, 70 livers, and 31 pancreata, in addition to other organs and tissues.

Yet, approximately *one-third* of the people needing organ transplants will die for want of a donated organ.*

Over 78%¹ of those responding to a survey say that organ donation has a positive effect on the donor family's grieving process

The following chart gives information about one-year graft survival rates based on a study of all patients receiving transplants in 1988 and average national cost for each type of transplant:

¹Batten & Prottas, (1987)

| Organ | First done successfully | 1 year graft survival rate* | Average Cost (including first year medication & follow-up)** |
|------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Kidney | 1954 | 81% | \$51,000 |
| Heart | 1967 | 82% | 148,000 |
| Heart-Lung | 1981 | 57% | \$200,000 |
| Liver | 1963 | 70% | \$235,000 |
| Lung | 1963 | 49% | \$150,000 |
| Pancreas | 1969 | 71% | \$ 70,000 |
| Cornea | 1940 | 95% | \$4-40,000 |

* source: United Network for Organ Sharing, 11-90

** source: Roger Evans, Ph.D., Baselle Institute

Make a very important difference in someone's life.

Signing a donor card signifies your commitment to renewing the life and health of others in need. In the event of your death, your family will be asked what your wishes were. Now is the time to discuss this important issue with them. The gift of organ and tissue donation can truly be a gift of life for someone else.

1. Talk to your family about this important decision.
2. Fill out this donor card in the presence of two witnesses and sign your name in the space provided.
3. Have both witnesses sign their names in the spaces provided.
4. Carry this card in your purse or wallet where it can be easily found.

**Be an organ donor...
it's the chance of a lifetime!**

DONOR CARD

This is a legal document under the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act or similar laws, signed by the donor and the following two witnesses in the presence of each other.

Donor's signature

Donor's date of birth

City & State

Witness

Witness

Next of kin

Telephone

This is to inform you that I want to be an organ and tissue donor if the occasion ever arises. Please see that my wishes are carried out by informing the attending medical personnel that I am a donor. My desires are indicated below:

In the hope that I may help others, I hereby make this gift for the purpose of transplant, medical study or education, to take effect upon my death. I give:

- Any needed organs/tissues
 Only the following organs/tissues

Specify the organ(s)/tissue(s)

Limitations or special wishes if any

Donor's signature

Detach your donor card below and give the above portion to your family

Please type or print full name of donor

In the hope that I may help others, I hereby make this gift for the purpose of transplant, medical study or education, to take effect upon my death.

- I give: Any needed organs/tissues
 Only the following organs/tissues

Specify the organ(s)/tissue(s)

Limitations or special wishes if any

Figure 1
NUMBER OF TRANSPLANTS, BY ORGAN
 (1985-1990)

| | <u>1985</u> | <u>1986</u> | <u>1987</u> | <u>1988</u> | <u>1989</u> | <u>1990</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Heart . | 719 | 1,368 | 1,438 | 1,663 | 1,700 | 2,085 |
| Heart-Lung | 30 | 45 | 49 | 74 | 68 | 50 |
| Kidney (Cadaveric and Living) | 7,695 | 8,976 | 9,094 | 9,004 | 8,706 | 9,560 |
| Liver | 602 | 924 | 1,199 | 1,711 | 2,164 | 2,656 |
| Lung | — | — | — | 33 | 119 | 262 |
| Pancreas | 130 | 140 | 142 | 250 | 419 | 549 |
| TOTAL | 9,176 | 11,453 | 11,922 | 12,735 | 13,176 | 15,164 |

Source: United Network for Organ Sharing

Figure 3
NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON WAITING LISTS, BY ORGAN
 (1987-1990)

| As of December 31st | <u>1987</u> | <u>1988</u> | <u>1989</u> | <u>1990</u> |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Heart | 699 | 1,032 | 1,324 | 1,796 |
| Heart-Lung | 155 | 205 | 240 | 226 |
| Kidney | 12,099 | 13,944 | 16,363 | 17,955 |
| Liver | 454 | 617 | 830 | 1,248 |
| Lung | 16 | 70 | 94 | 309 |
| Pancreas | 63 | 164 | 322 | 474 |
| TOTAL | 13,396 | 16,032 | 19,173 | 22,008 |

Source: United Network for Organ Sharing

Released from UNOS 5/91
 1991 stats available 5/92

Religious views on organ donation

The following is a brief synopsis of the official stances taken by some of the country's main religious groups. If there are questions about the patient's religious beliefs, it is recommended that the family consult their own religious leader or teacher.

Armish - If they know the donation will improve the health of the transplant recipient, they will consent. Reluctance is shown toward donation if the procedure's outcome is questionable.

Buddhist - Their belief is that donation is a choice of personal conscience. There is no written policy, but one leader, Rev. Gyomay Masao of Chicago says, "We honor those people who donate their bodies to the advancement of medical science and saving lives."

Catholic - Members believe donation is an act of fraternal love, charity and self-sacrifice. Transplantation is ethically and morally acceptable to the Vatican.

Christian Science - No specific position is taken. The decision is left up to the individual.

Gypsy - Although there is no formal resolution, gypsies normally oppose organ donation based on their firm belief that for one year after death, the soul retraces its steps. All body parts must remain intact for the soul retains a physical shape.

Hindu - The Hindu Temple Society of America explains that there is no prohibition to donation and that the decision is left to the individual.

Jehovah's Witness - While the church does not encourage organ donation, they believe the individual has the right to choose according to his/her conscience, with the provision that all organs are completely drained of blood before being transplanted.

Jewish - The teachings here maintain that saving a human life takes precedence over maintaining the sanctity of the human body. According to Rabbi Moses Tendler, "If one is in a position to donate an organ to save another's life, it is obligatory to do so."

Mormon - The church does not object to the individual's decision in favor of organ donation and transplantation.

Moslem - Leaders have now reversed their 1983 opposition to organ donation, provided that donors provide consent in writing prior to their death and that the organs are transplanted immediately rather than being stored in organ banks.

Protestant - Organ donation is actively encouraged, while the church recognizes the individual's right to make decisions regarding their own body. They believe organ donation can alleviate pain and suffering and is thereby seen as an expression of Christian love.