

1 [National Donate Life Month - April]

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3 **Resolution recognizing April as National Donate Life Month in the City and County of**
4 **San Francisco and urging all San Franciscans to register as organ and tissue donors;**
5 **committing to providing education to City and County of San Francisco employees**
6 **about the need for and benefits of organ and tissue donation; and recognizing the**
7 **partnership between the San Francisco Unified School District, Department of Public**
8 **Health, and Donor Network West to implement California State Assembly Bill 1967,**
9 **authored by former Speaker of the California Assembly, John A. Pérez, to provide**
10 **education to students and staff about the need for and benefits of organ and tissue**
11 **donation.**

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13 WHEREAS, There are currently 119,000 men, women and children on the national
14 transplant waiting list, and every 10 minutes another person is added to the waiting list; and

15 WHEREAS, Approximately 665 people in San Francisco are on the waiting list for a
16 life-saving organ transplant, but last year only 67 of these patients were transplanted; and

17 WHEREAS, 44 percent of those on the waiting list in San Francisco are Asian, 19
18 percent are Hispanic, 19 percent are Caucasian, and 14 percent are African American; and

19 WHEREAS, Every year, the waiting list for organs gets longer, but the number of
20 donors and transplants does not keep up with the growing need; and

21 WHEREAS, 82 percent of people waiting for an organ are waiting for a kidney; and

22 WHEREAS, 22 people die every day in the United States waiting for an organ
23 transplant; and

24 WHEREAS, Only 3 in 1,000 people die in a way that allows for organ donation; and

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1 WHEREAS, Any person can become a potential organ and tissue donor regardless of
2 age, ethnicity or medical history; and

3 WHEREAS, A living donor can save a life by providing one kidney or a portion of their
4 liver; and

5 WHEREAS, A deceased organ donor can save up to eight lives by donating their heart,
6 pancreas, intestines, liver, two kidneys, and two lungs; and

7 WHEREAS, A deceased tissue donor can enhance up to 75 lives by donating their
8 eyes, cornea, skin, heart valves, veins, and bones and connective tissues; and

9 WHEREAS, People can indicate that they would like to become a donor during their
10 driver license application or renewal process, and anyone over the age of 13 can sign up
11 online anytime or learn more about organ and tissue donation online at
12 www.donateLIFECalifornia.org; and

13 WHEREAS, Approximately 22,000 people on the waiting list for an organ donation live
14 in California; and

15 WHEREAS, More than half of adults over the age of 18 in the United States are
16 registered as organ donors while only 43 percent of the total population of California are
17 registered as organ donors; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2012, the Governor of the State of California signed into law Assembly
19 Bill 1967 (John A. Pérez), which amended the California Education Code to include a
20 provision that all health and science curriculum frameworks adopted by the Instructional
21 Quality Commission and the State Board of Education include the subject of organ
22 procurement and tissue donation; and

23 WHEREAS, The intent of AB 1967 is to inform young people about the importance of
24 organ and tissue donation in order for them to make an educated decision about the
25 opportunity to save lives; and

1 WHEREAS, Donor Network West is a federally designated Organ Procurement
2 Organization serving 175 hospitals and five transplant hospitals in Northern and Central
3 California while providing service and support to doctors, nurses, coroners and medical
4 examiners, and families; and

5 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) has made a
6 pledge to support Donor Network West and educate Primary Care Physicians at SFDPH in
7 clinics in the Chinatown and Castro neighborhoods as well as others in order to increase
8 awareness about organ and tissue donation and registration in areas of San Francisco where
9 it is most needed; and

10 WHEREAS, SFDPH has included information about organ and tissue donation
11 registration in their employee newsletter; and

12 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Health Service System (HSS) has committed to
13 working with Donor Network West to provide education during open enrollment and flu
14 season, where they typically see over 5,000 employees and retirees each year; and

15 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) in partnership with
16 SFDPH and Donor Network West, as part of their obligation to implement AB1967, has
17 committed to providing organ and tissue donation information and registration materials
18 including information about the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act which allows for organ
19 transplants between HIV positive individuals, in 18 or more school wellness centers
20 throughout San Francisco, as well as educating wellness staff and teachers about organ and
21 tissue donation via their professional development programs; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes April as National
23 Donate Life Month in San Francisco and urges all San Franciscans to register to be an organ
24 donor; and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco commits to
2 providing education to City and County staff and employees about the need for and benefits of
3 organ and tissue donation; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports the
5 mission and work of Donor Network West in providing compassionate support and education
6 about organ donation; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco commends the
8 SFUSD for becoming the first school district in California to comply with AB1967 and urges
9 the SFUSD to continue to provide this information to students on an ongoing bases; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco is unwavering in its
11 support for policies and programs that educate and inform residents about the need for and
12 benefits of organ and tissue donation.

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