

By: Capriglione

H.R. No. 213

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In 2016, 14-year-old Madeline Smith received the
2 life-changing gift of an organ transplant, and her uplifting story
3 is encouraging others to join in spreading an important message
4 about organ donation; and

5 WHEREAS, The daughter of Trey and Jessica Smith, Madeline
6 Avery Smith was born on July 24, 2002, and diagnosed shortly
7 thereafter with Methylmalonic acidemia, a rare and incurable
8 metabolic disorder that inhibits the body's ability to process
9 certain proteins; despite the physical and developmental
10 challenges associated with the disorder, she was able to learn to
11 walk and speak, surprising her doctors who feared she would
12 struggle to reach basic developmental milestones; her childhood was
13 marked by frequent visits to the hospital, and over the years, she
14 began suffering from renal failure, which eventually required her
15 to undergo dialysis as she waited for a transplant to become
16 available; and

17 WHEREAS, Because of the selfless decision of another set of
18 parents, who found the courage to perform an immeasurable act of
19 kindness after their own personal tragedy, Madeline received a
20 successful double organ transplant of a liver and kidney on August
21 31, 2016; following the operation, her health and quality of life
22 have improved dramatically, and she is now able to enjoy many
23 activities that were previously prohibited to her; and

24 WHEREAS, Inspired by their daughter's journey, Trey and

1 Jessica Smith started "Team Maddie," a grassroots advocacy group
2 aimed at bringing attention to the shortage of organs available for
3 transplant and the thousands of patients, including children, who
4 need them; the couple have partnered with the distance running
5 community, who wear "Team Maddie" shirts in local races to
6 encourage people to sign up to be organ donors during the driver's
7 license renewal process; the Smiths have also received support for
8 their campaign from countless family members, friends, and
9 acquaintances, as well as from strangers from as far away as Italy
10 and Scotland; and

11 WHEREAS, Through the simple step of registering to be an
12 organ donor, everyone has the power to potentially give children
13 like Madeline hope for a longer, healthier life, and the Smith
14 family and their supporters may take pride in the important impact
15 that their efforts have made; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
17 Legislature hereby extend warmest best wishes to Madeline Smith and
18 her family and commend the work of Team Maddie to further the cause
19 of organ donation; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for Madeline and her family as an expression of high regard
22 by the Texas House of Representatives.