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H.C.R. No. 42

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Organ, bone marrow, and blood donations play an
2 essential role in a broad range of critical medical treatments, and
3 citizens across the Lone Star State can do their part by registering
4 to become donors and by taking part in local blood drives; and

5 WHEREAS, Although 95 percent of Americans support organ
6 donation, only about half are signed up to be donors, and only 2
7 percent of the population is on the national registry for bone
8 marrow; moreover, while an estimated 38 percent of U.S. residents
9 are eligible to donate blood, less than 10 percent of that group
10 actually does so each year; and

11 WHEREAS, In Texas, registering to become an organ donor is a
12 simple and straightforward process; more than 11 million state
13 residents have already joined the registry, thanks in part to the
14 efforts of the Donate Life Texas organization; DLT works in
15 conjunction with the Texas Department of Public Safety to enable
16 Texans to register as part of the driver's license application and
17 renewal process; in addition, there are numerous centers for bone
18 marrow and blood donation throughout the state, and some employers,
19 including the State of Texas, offer time off or other incentives to
20 encourage donation; and

21 WHEREAS, Many individuals have devoted themselves to
22 furthering the donation effort, and Dr. Anh Nguyen Reiss stands as
23 a particularly inspiring example; a Houston physician who was
24 diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome, Dr. Reiss dedicated the

1 last years of her life to spreading awareness of the need for bone
2 marrow donors; though she passed away on February 26, 2016, at the
3 age of 48, she and her family and friends helped more than double
4 the number of Vietnamese donors on the registry; and

5 WHEREAS, By taking the necessary steps to become donors,
6 Texans can be part of a life-saving process that benefits countless
7 men, women, and children each year, and the anniversary of
8 Dr. Reiss's death serves as a fitting date to focus attention on
9 this important issue; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
11 hereby designate February 26 as Bone Marrow, Blood, and Organ
12 Donation Registry Day; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
14 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
15 until the 10th anniversary of the date that this resolution is
16 finally passed by the legislature.