

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 81

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

HEALTH/CANCER: Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to post information concerning bone marrow donations on the department's website

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to post information concerning
3 bone marrow donations on the department's website for dissemination by healthcare
4 practitioners to patients.

5 WHEREAS, since 1987, when the United States Congress authorized the
6 establishment of a national registry of volunteer bone marrow donors, the National Marrow
7 Donor Program, now publicly known as Be The Match, has facilitated more than seventy-
8 four thousand marrow and umbilical cord blood transplants; and

9 WHEREAS, Be The Match states that the number of transplants facilitated through
10 the national Be The Match Registry is only a fraction of the people who can benefit; and

11 WHEREAS, one of the leading hurdles cited in a report by the Government
12 Accountability Office is locating a suitably matched, unrelated donor, a process that is often
13 difficult, time-consuming, and costly; and

14 WHEREAS, seventy percent of patients do not have a donor in their family and rely
15 upon the national registry to find a match; and

16 WHEREAS, there is a need to enhance the understanding of the importance of bone
17 marrow donation, and to encourage residents of Louisiana to participate in bone marrow
18 donation drives; and

19 WHEREAS, the most prevalent problem with respect to bone marrow donation is the
20 need for racially and ethnically diverse donors because of complex tissue types; and

1 WHEREAS, of the more than thirteen million five hundred thousand potential donors
2 on the national Be The Match Registry, forty percent are donors from racially and ethnically
3 diverse backgrounds; and

4 WHEREAS, there is a need to engage the public to increase diversity in the registry,
5 with the goal of finding a matching donor for all patients to receive the transplant they need,
6 when they need it; and

7 WHEREAS, the bone marrow registration process is simple as it only takes a few
8 minutes and requires a cheek swab; and

9 WHEREAS, a bone marrow transplant may be the best treatment option or the only
10 potential for a cure for patients with leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell anemia, and many
11 other diseases; and

12 WHEREAS, as the science of transplant continues to advance, new diseases are
13 being treated with bone marrow transplants; and

14 WHEREAS, R.S. 40:1263.2 established the Louisiana Organ Transplant Assistance
15 Program within the office of the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health; and

16 WHEREAS, through the program, the department educates residents of Louisiana
17 about the need for bone marrow donors, the procedures required to become registered as a
18 potential bone marrow donor, including the procedures for determining the person's tissue
19 type, and the medical procedures a donor must undergo to donate bone marrow or other
20 sources of blood stem cells and the attendant risks of the procedure; and

21 WHEREAS, the department is also directed to make special efforts to educate and
22 recruit minority populations to volunteer as potential bone marrow donors.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
24 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to post information concerning bone
25 marrow donations on the department's website for dissemination by healthcare practitioners
26 to patients.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the information to be placed on the department's
28 website shall include but not be limited to all of the following:

29 (1) The need for bone marrow donations.

30 (2) Patient populations that would benefit from bone marrow donations.

- 1 (3) How to join the national bone marrow registry.
- 2 (4) How to acquire a free buccal swab kit from the national bone marrow
- 3 registry.
- 4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby urge and request all
- 5 healthcare practitioners to provide this life-saving information to patients.
- 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- 7 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.
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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 81 Original

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