

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Donate Life Kentucky for their life-saving work in the
2 promotion and funding of organ and tissue donation.

3 WHEREAS, in 1992, the Kentucky Association of Circuit Court Clerks
4 successfully lobbied for legislation through the General Assembly that afforded every
5 Kentuckian obtaining a driver's license or state identification card an opportunity to
6 donate dollars to promote organ and tissue donation. These contributions were put into a
7 trust that the Circuit Clerks called their Trust For Life; and

8 WHEREAS, the Trust For Life was the first such program in the United States, and
9 since its inception many other states have requested information about the program and a
10 number of other states now have similar programs; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2006, the General Assembly passed legislation setting up the new
12 Kentucky Organ Donor Registry to create the statewide, confidential registry of people
13 who wish to help others through organ and tissue donation. A coalition of organizations,
14 including the Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates (KODA), advocated for the registry; and

15 WHEREAS, this year Trust For Life and KODA encourage the passage of Senate
16 Bill 30, which allows a person to make a monetary donation or become an organ donor
17 through the vehicle registration process. The measure passed the Senate on a 35-0 vote;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, since 2006, over 2.2 million Kentuckians have placed their name on
20 the Kentucky Organ Donor Registry; and

21 WHEREAS, currently 64 percent of Kentuckians are registered, but the goal is to
22 get 100 percent registered, and public education is still needed regarding the facts and
23 process of how to make the decision to donate life; and

24 WHEREAS, nearly 1,000 Kentuckians are currently among the 106,000 Americans
25 who are on waiting lists to receive an organ transplant; and

26 WHEREAS, on average, one person is added to the national organ transplant
27 waiting list every ten minutes; and

1 WHEREAS, the need for organ donations greatly exceeds the supply available and
2 the divide will likely increase in the coming years; and

3 WHEREAS, approximately 20 patients die every day while waiting for a donated
4 heart, liver, kidney, or other organ; and

5 WHEREAS, more than one million tissue and cornea transplants are done each year
6 in the United States, and the surgical need for tissue transplants has been steadily rising;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, in 2021, 536 organs were recovered and transplanted in our region
9 thanks to 189 generous organ donors, and over 700 tissue and cornea donors healed
10 patients in need through their gifts of life; and

11 WHEREAS, the KODA supports thousands of donor families with grief care and
12 correspondence, including interactions between recipients and donor families; and

13 WHEREAS, continued efforts to increase awareness of the need for organ and
14 tissue donation could mean the difference between life and death for citizens throughout
15 Kentucky and the nation who are waiting for an organ; and

16 WHEREAS, the Trust For Life, Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates, and all member
17 organizations of the Kentucky Donate Life Coalition encourage all Kentuckians to
18 become organ donors to help save, prolong, and improve the quality of life of the citizens
19 of the Commonwealth;

20 NOW, THEREFORE,

21 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
22 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

23 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives hereby expresses its most profound
24 gratefulness to the Kentucky Circuit Clerks for their life-saving work in the promotion
25 and funding of organ and tissue donation.

26 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
27 copy of this Resolution to Donate Life Kentucky, 10301 Linn Station Road, Louisville,

1 Kentucky 40223.