



HJ0098

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, When patients develop end stage kidney, liver, or
3 heart disease, sometimes the only chance for a cure is a
4 life-saving transplantation; and

5 WHEREAS, Despite federal laws that stipulate that organs
6 should be allocated regardless of financial status, race, or
7 national origin, in reality, lack of insurance prevents most of
8 the uninsured in need of transplantation from ever getting one;
9 these patients with end-organ failure are high utilizers of
10 costly health care services throughout their lives; and

11 WHEREAS, Thirty percent of organ donors in the greater
12 Chicago area are uninsured, yet less than 2% of the organ
13 transplants go to the uninsured; and

14 WHEREAS, For uninsured patients with kidney failure, the
15 Illinois Medicaid program pays for life saving dialysis costing
16 upwards of \$100,000 per year for the lifetime of the patient;
17 however, the program denies payment for life-saving kidney
18 transplants and post-transplant care; and

19 WHEREAS, Many uninsured patients have family members or
20 friends who would donate an organ, but for lack of insurance
21 coverage, are unable to do so; and

1 WHEREAS, A program that would extend Illinois Medicaid to
2 these patients would save the program money over time, as the
3 care for a transplanted organ is less than the cost of
4 maintaining a patient on lifelong dialysis; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
7 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Illinois
8 Taskforce on Organ Transplantation for the Uninsured to develop
9 proposals to expand Illinois Medicaid to include coverage for
10 transplantation evaluation, organ allocation, and
11 post-transplant medical care for the uninsured; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of the
14 following members:

15 (1) 3 members of the Illinois House of Representatives
16 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

17 (2) 3 members of the Illinois House of Representatives
18 appointed by the House Minority Leader;

19 (3) 3 members of the Illinois Senate appointed by the
20 President of the Senate;

21 (4) 3 members of the Illinois Senate appointed by the
22 Minority Leader of the Senate; and

23 (5) 4 members representing non-profit health care

1 organizations, one appointed by each of the 4 caucus leaders;
2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Healthcare and
4 Family Services shall provide administrative and other support
5 to the Task Force; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the members of the Task Force shall serve
7 without compensation; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall submit a report of its
9 findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later
10 than January 1, 2015.