WHEREAS, with more than one hundred eighteen thousand people waiting for an organ donation and with more than seven thousand people dying each year due to the lack of organs, public awareness of the great need for organ donation is the key to increasing the number of organ donors and thereby saving lives and improving the quality of life for recipients of organ donation; and

WHEREAS, approximately thirty thousand people a year have begun new lives thanks to an organ transplant. Organs and tissue from a single nonliving donor can be used to benefit more than fifty people. Living donors can donate a kidney and parts of their liver, lung, pancreas, or intestine, and can be evaluated to help a friend, family member, or even donate anonymously to patients of the wait list; and

WHEREAS, promoting the need for organ and tissue donors and encouraging people to become an organ donor and tissue donor are vitally important to increase the number of lives saved and changed for the better through organ donation; and

WHEREAS, people of African American/Black, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and multiracial descent currently make up nearly 58% of individuals on the national organ transplant waiting list. These communities are in great need of more organ and tissue donors; and

WHEREAS, an intensive awareness campaign focused on obstacles related to minorities and organ donation, which promotes healthy living and disease prevention to decrease the need for organ transplantation and which reaches out to all ethnic groups is greatly needed:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby designate the month of August as "Minority Organ Donor Awareness Month" in Missouri; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly encourages and recommends that people of the state of Missouri observe Minority Organ Donor Awareness Month through activities which will specifically address the need to increase awareness of organ donation by all ethnic groups and the need for organ donors. Such activities may include prayer breakfasts, health walks, and donor drives.