



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, each year, National Donate Life Month is observed during the month of April, and New Yorkers join to recognize the altruism and humanitarianism of those who are inspired to "give the gift of life" to a fellow human being; and

Whereas, more than 2.7 million New Yorkers have enrolled in the New York State Donate Life Registry to indicate their wish to become organ and tissues donors in the event of their death; and

Whereas, this observance pays tribute to organ donors and their families, whose meaningful decisions not only improve the quality of life for recipients, but in many cases can save their lives; and

Whereas, there are more than 113,000 men, women and children who are currently on the national waiting list for an organ or tissue transplant, including more than 10,000 New Yorkers; and there are tens of thousands more in need of bone, corneal, or other tissue transplants; and

Whereas, the number of people on the waiting lists far exceeds the number of donors; every ten minutes a name is added to the national waiting list, and every two and a half hours a new name is added to the New York State waiting list; and

Whereas, in April 2012, the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles have collaborated to provide New Yorkers with the ability to enroll in the NYS Donate Life Registry on-line using a secure electronic signature to verify identity; and

Whereas, members of organ and tissue donation advocacy organizations promote donation and have been active in the areas of support, advocacy, education and public awareness; striving to bring together all the components of the transplant community, these organizations also work closely with local transplant centers, helping to promote and educate the public about the need for organ and tissue donation; and

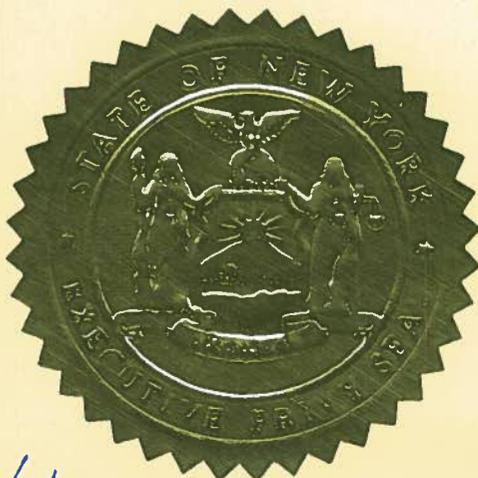
Whereas, countless other New York State organ procurement organizations and eye and tissue banks work to educate the public on the critical need for organ, eye, and tissue donors; and

Whereas, the organs and tissues from a single donor can help as many as fifty recipients, and New Yorkers are encouraged to take this opportunity to learn more about the far-reaching impact that this selfless act has by extending another life; during National Donate Life Month, people everywhere are reminded to consider organ and tissue donation, discuss donation with their family and friends, or express their certain wish and intention to be a donor, and we likewise honor all donors for their immense generosity in giving others the greatest gift of all – the gift of life;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 2012 as

DONATE LIFE MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i b e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fifth day
day of April in the year two thousand twelve.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor