

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 499

To establish a congressional commemorative medal for organ donors and their families.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 2, 1999

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. INOUE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To establish a congressional commemorative medal for organ donors and their families.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Gift of Life Congres-
5 sional Medal Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL.**

7 The Secretary of the Treasury shall design and strike
8 a bronze medal with suitable emblems, devices, and in-

1 scriptions, to be determined by the Secretary of the Treas-
 2 ury, to commemorate organ donors and their families.

3 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any organ donor, or the family
 5 or family member of any organ donor, shall be eligible for
 6 a medal described in section 2.

7 (b) DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary of Health and
 8 Human Services shall direct the entity holding the Organ
 9 Procurement and Transplantation Network (hereafter in
 10 this Act referred to as “OPTN”) to contract to—

11 (1) establish an application procedure requiring
 12 the relevant organ procurement organization, as de-
 13 scribed in section 371(b)(1) of the Public Health
 14 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 273(b)(1)), through which an
 15 individual or their family made an organ donation,
 16 to submit to the OPTN contractor documentation
 17 supporting the eligibility of that individual or their
 18 family to receive a medal described in section 2; and

19 (2) determine, through the documentation pro-
 20 vided, and, if necessary, independent investigation,
 21 whether the individual or family is eligible to receive
 22 a medal described in section 2.

23 **SEC. 4. PRESENTATION.**

24 (a) DELIVERY TO THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
 25 HUMAN SERVICES.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall

1 deliver medals struck pursuant to this Act to the Secretary
2 of Health and Human Services.

3 (b) DELIVERY TO ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The Sec-
4 retary of Health and Human Services shall direct the
5 OPTN contractor to arrange for the presentation to the
6 relevant organ procurement organization all medals struck
7 pursuant to this Act to individuals or families that, in ac-
8 cordance with section 3, the OPTN contractor has deter-
9 mined to be eligible to receive medals under this Act.

10 (c) LIMITATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
12 graph (2), only 1 medal may be presented to a fam-
13 ily under subsection (b). Such medal shall be pre-
14 sented to the donating family member, or in the case
15 of a deceased donor, the family member who signed
16 the consent form authorizing, or who otherwise au-
17 thorized, the donation of the organ involved.

18 (2) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a family in
19 which more than 1 member is an organ donor, the
20 OPTN contractor may present an additional medal
21 to each such organ donor or their family.

22 **SEC. 5. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
24 Human Services or the OPTN contractor may provide du-
25 plicates of the medal described in section 2 to any recipi-

ent of a medal under section 4(b), under such regulations as the Secretary of Health and Human Services may issue.

(b) LIMITATION.—The price of a duplicate medal shall be sufficient to cover the cost of such duplicates.

SEC. 6. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of section 5111 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 7. GENERAL WAIVER OF PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS.

No provision of law governing procurement or public contracts shall be applicable to the procurement of goods or services necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. SOLICITATION OF DONATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury may enter into an agreement with the OPTN contractor to collect funds to offset expenditures relating to the issuance of medals authorized under this Act.

(b) PAYMENT OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), all funds received by the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network under subsection

(a) shall be promptly paid by the Organ Procure-

1 ment and Transplantation Network to the Secretary
2 of the Treasury.

3 (2) LIMITATION.—Not more than 5 percent of
4 any funds received under subsection (a) shall be
5 used to pay administrative costs incurred by the
6 OPTN contractor as a result of an agreement estab-
7 lished under this section.

8 (c) NUMISMATIC PUBLIC ENTERPRISE FUND.—Not-
9 withstanding any other provision of law—

10 (1) all amounts received by the Secretary of the
11 Treasury under subsection (b)(1) shall be deposited
12 in the Numismatic Public Enterprise Fund, as de-
13 scribed in section 5134 of title 31, United States
14 Code; and

15 (2) the Secretary of the Treasury shall charge
16 such fund with all expenditures relating to the
17 issuance of medals authorized under this Act.

18 (d) START-UP COSTS.—A 1-time amount not to ex-
19 ceed \$55,000 shall be provided to the OPTN contractor
20 to cover initial start-up costs. The amount will be paid
21 back in full within 3 years of the date of the enactment
22 of this Act from funds received under subsection (a).

23 (e) NO NET COST TO THE GOVERNMENT.—The Sec-
24 retary of the Treasury shall take all actions necessary to

1 ensure that the issuance of medals authorized under sec-
2 tion 2 results in no net cost to the Government.

3 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) ORGAN.—The term “organ” means the
6 human kidney, liver, heart, lung, pancreas, and any
7 other human organ (other than corneas and eyes)
8 specified by regulation of the Secretary of Health
9 and Human Services or the OPTN contractor.

10 (2) ORGAN PROCUREMENT AND TRANSPLAN-
11 TATION NETWORK.—The term “Organ Procurement
12 and Transplantation Network” means the Organ
13 Procurement and Transplantation Network estab-
14 lished under section 372 of the Public Health Serv-
15 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 274).

16 **SEC. 10. SUNSET PROVISION.**

17 This Act shall be effective during the 5-year period
18 beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

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