

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

March 23, 2004

April is "National Donate Life Month." Organ and tissue donation is a life-giving act and the greatest expression of compassion. More than 83,000 individuals nationwide and 17,000 in California are currently on the national organ transplant waiting list. Sadly, every 90 minutes one person dies while waiting for a donated organ.

A single individual's donation of the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas and small intestine can save up to seven lives, and the donation of tissue can save and enhance the lives of up to 50 others. Each year, organ and tissue transplantation saves 23,000 lives and improves the overall quality of life for many others. Many bereaved families find solace in donating their loved one's organs and tissue. This act of kindness offers patients a new chance at healthy, productive, and normal lives and returns them to their families, friends and communities.

One Legacy Transplant Donor Network is one of 59 regional non-profit, federally designated organizations dedicated to the life-saving and life-enhancing benefits of organ and tissue donation. This agency works with 14 transplant centers and 225 donor hospitals in Southern California to help children and adults live longer, fuller lives through transplantation. As part of its "Donate Life" campaign, One Legacy would like to partner with Los Angeles County to educate employees on the importance of organ and tissue donation.

MOTION

Molina _____

Burke _____

Yaroslavsky _____

Antonovich _____

Knabe _____

I, THEREFORE, Move that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

1. Declare the month of April 2004 "Donate Life Month" throughout Los Angeles County;
2. Direct the Department of Human Resources to work with One Legacy to distribute One Legacy's "Donate Life" brochure to County employees with their April 15, 2004 paychecks;
3. Direct the Auditor-Controller to include a message about "Donate Life Month" in the April 15, 2004 paychecks;
4. Direct Human Resources to work with One Legacy and the Medical Staff Associations in our County hospitals to present workshops for staff on organ donation in each facility.

GM/BJ/AU