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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 683

Offered January 14, 2009

Prefiled January 13, 2009

Designating April, in 2009 and in each succeeding year, as Retailers for Life Month in Virginia.

Patrons—Peace, Abbitt, Albo, Alexander, Caputo, Ebbin, Ingram, Johnson, Loupassi, Merricks, O'Bannon, Orrock, Pogge, Saxman, Tata and Watts

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Retail Merchants Association and the Donate Life Partnership have formed a coalition to increase awareness of the critical need for Virginians to become organ and tissue donors and to encourage organ donor registration; and

WHEREAS, tragically, four Virginians die each week waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant that did not come in time; and

WHEREAS, one organ donor can save seven lives and one tissue donor can enhance the lives of more than 50 individuals; and

WHEREAS, Virginians may legally declare their decision to be an organ or tissue donor by indicating their decision on their driver's license or registering by mail by completing a donor registration form or online on the statewide donor registry at www.save7lives.com; and

WHEREAS, on the third Saturday of April, during Retailers for Life Month, the Retail Merchants Association will also host the Retail Merchants Association's Donor Appreciation Day, when retailers will be encouraged to display in-store posters and provide information about organ and tissue donations to their employees and customers; and

WHEREAS, all Virginians should consider themselves as potential organ or tissue donors regardless of their age or medical condition, because with advances in medicine more people than ever before can become donors; and

WHEREAS, the Retailers for Life Month campaign will help to save the lives of many Virginians, and the Retail Merchants Association and the Donate Life Partnership are recognized for their many efforts to promote organ and tissue donations in the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate April, in 2009 and in each succeeding year, as Retailers for Life Month in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this month on the General Assembly's website.

INTRODUCED

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