

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

8 MAY 29 10:06

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 2352

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The number of gravely-ill Filipinos afflicted with end-stage organ failure is perennially increasing. These patients are left with organ transplant as their sole chance of survival. Approximately one patient on the organ waiting list dies each week while waiting for transplant.<sup>1</sup>

Transplant is one of the most miraculous breakthroughs of modern medicine. It gives new hope, particularly to patients with end stage diseases, to recover and regain a second chance to life. It also provides a better quality of life in contrast to alternative expensive medical treatments. Nevertheless, human organ transplantation cannot be alienated from the human act of donation. It relies entirely on the generosity of donors and their families who are willing to make this life-saving gift to others.

This bill seeks to officially recognize the important role and contributions of organ donors who selflessly provide vital organs to patients who are in dire need of organ transplant, and to promote their sense of sacrifice and altruism, by declaring the last week of April the Organ Donors' Week

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES  
Senator

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<sup>1</sup> Human Organ Preservation Effort. National Kidney and Transplant Institute.  
[http://www.nkti.gov.ph/department/HOPE/about\\_us.php](http://www.nkti.gov.ph/department/HOPE/about_us.php). Retrieved on: 14 May 2008.

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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8 MAY 29 10:07

SENATE

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AN ACT  
DECLARING THE LAST FULL WEEK OF APRIL AS ORGAN DONORS'  
WEEK

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*National Organ Donors' Week Act of 2008*”.

**SEC. 2. *Organ Donors Week.*** – To give due recognition to the important role and contributions of organ donors who selflessly provide vital organs to patients who are in dire need of organ transplant, and to promote their sense of sacrifice and altruism, the last week of April is hereby declared the Organ Donors' Week.

**SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – For purposes of this Act, the term “organ donors” shall mean either:

- a. living-related donor (LRD) – a blood relative of the patient who willingly donates one of his or her organs without any corresponding danger to the donor's life or any alteration in his usual physical activities; or
- b. cadaver donor (CAD) – someone who is unrelated to the patient who suffered injury by trauma or disease to the brain, destroying the upper brain functions (which house a person's personality and stock of knowledge, and for all intents and purposes, his very being) leaving the brain stem or vegetative functions (which involuntarily control a person's breathing, heart, and other life-sustaining functions) intact

**SEC. 4. *Lead Agency.*** –The Department of Health (DOH) shall urge all citizens to recognize a "National Organ Donors' Week" and shall hold programs and activities in observance of the event.

**SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The DOH shall promulgate the appropriate rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its approval.

**SEC. 6. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,