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(Original Signature of Member)

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal for organ donors
and the family of organ donors.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. STARK (for himself, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr.
McCRERY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Com-
mittee on _____

A BILL

To establish the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal
for organ donors and the family of organ donors.

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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal Act of 2008”.

6 (b) **FINDINGS.**—The Congress makes the following
7 findings:

1 (1) Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones was
2 dedicated to eliminating health disparities and pro-
3 tecting vulnerable populations.

4 (2) Through her service on the Committee on
5 Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, she was
6 a strong voice for those who were poor, elderly, ra-
7 cial and ethnic minorities, and disenfranchised.

8 (3) Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones'
9 concern for others was demonstrated by the decision
10 to donate her organs, so that as her life ended, the
11 lives of others continued.

12 (4) There are currently 99,625 candidates for
13 organ donation on the national transplant waiting
14 list. Every 16 minutes, a new name is added to such
15 list. Sixteen persons die each day waiting for a life
16 saving organ transplant.

17 (5) Minority populations account for nearly 50
18 percent of those on the national transplant waiting
19 list.

20 (6) Diseases that can lead to organ failure,
21 such as hypertension and diabetes, are found more
22 frequently in ethnic minority populations than in the
23 general population.

24 (7) While minorities donate organs in propor-
25 tion to their population, the rate of organ donations

1 fails to keep pace with the need for transplants in
2 the population. African Americans, for example, rep-
3 resent about 13 percent of the population and 12
4 percent of organ donors, but comprise roughly 23
5 percent of individuals on national transplant waiting
6 list for kidney transplants.

7 (8) Transplantation success rates are higher
8 when organs are matched between people sharing
9 the same racial and ethnic background.

10 (9) Because of the disparities in the need for
11 organs, minorities are more likely to wait longer to
12 find a successful match and are more likely to be
13 sicker when an organ is found.

14 (10) An increase in minority organ donations
15 would decrease the waiting time and increase the
16 likelihood of successful transplantations for minori-
17 ties.

18 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR STEPHANIE**

19 **TUBBS JONES GIFT OF LIFE MEDAL.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provisions of this
21 section and the availability of funds under this Act, any
22 organ donor, or the family of any organ donor, shall be
23 eligible for a Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal
24 (hereafter in this Act referred to as a “medal”).

1 (b) DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary of Health and
2 Human Services shall direct the entity operating the
3 Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network to—

4 (1) establish an application procedure requiring
5 the relevant organ procurement organization
6 through which an individual or family of the indi-
7 vidual made an organ donation, to submit to such
8 entity documentation supporting the eligibility of the
9 individual or the family, respectively, to receive a
10 medal;

11 (2) determine through the documentation pro-
12 vided and, if necessary, independent investigation
13 whether the individual or family, respectively, is eli-
14 gible to receive such a medal; and

15 (3) arrange for the presentation to the relevant
16 organ procurement organization all medals struck
17 pursuant to section 4 to individuals or families that
18 are determined to be eligible to receive medals.

19 (c) LIMITATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
21 graph (2), only 1 medal may be presented to a fam-
22 ily under subsection (b). Such medal shall be pre-
23 sented to the donating family member, or in the case
24 of a deceased donor, the family member who signed

1 the consent form authorizing, or who otherwise au-
2 thORIZED, the donation of the organ involved.

3 (2) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a family in
4 which more than 1 member is an organ donor, a
5 medal may be presented for each such organ donor.

6 **SEC. 3. SOLICITATION OF DONATIONS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Organ Procurement and
8 Transplantation Network may collect funds to offset ex-
9 penditures relating to the issuance of medals authorized
10 under this Act.

11 (b) PAYMENT OF FUNDS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
13 graph (2), all funds received by the Organ Procure-
14 ment and Transplantation Network under subsection
15 (a) shall be promptly paid by the Organ Procure-
16 ment and Transplantation Network to the Secretary
17 of Health and Human Services for purposes of pur-
18 chasing medals under this Act for distribution.

19 (2) LIMITATION.—Not more than 7 percent of
20 any funds received under subsection (a) may be used
21 to pay administrative costs, and fundraising costs to
22 solicit funds under subsection (a), incurred by the
23 Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network in
24 carrying out this Act.

1 **SEC. 4. DESIGN AND PRODUCTION OF MEDAL.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provisions of this
3 section, the Secretary of the Treasury shall design and
4 strike the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medals,
5 each of which shall—

- 6 (1) weigh 250 grams;
7 (2) have a diameter of 3 inches; and
8 (3) consist of bronze.

9 (b) DESIGN.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the medals
11 shall commemorate the compassion and courage
12 manifested by and the sacrifices made by organ do-
13 nors and their families, and the medals shall bear
14 suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions.

15 (2) SELECTION.—The design of medals struck
16 under this section shall be—

17 (A) selected by the Secretary of the Treas-
18 ury, in consultation with the Secretary of
19 Health and Human Services, the Organ Pro-
20 curement and Transplantation Network, inter-
21 ested members of the family of Stephanie
22 Tubbs Jones, Dr. William H. Frist, and the
23 Commission of Fine Arts; and

24 (B) reviewed by the Citizens Coin Advisory
25 Committee.

1 (c) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
2 ant to this section are national medals for purposes of
3 chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

4 (d) STRIKING AND DELIVERY OF MINIMUM-SIZED
5 LOTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall strike and de-
6 liver to the Secretary of Health and Human Services no
7 fewer than 100 medals at any time pursuant to an order
8 by such Secretary.

9 (e) COST OF MEDALS.—Medals struck under this sec-
10 tion and sold to the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
11 ices for distribution in accordance with this Act shall be
12 sold to the Secretary of Health and Human Services at
13 a price sufficient to cover the cost of designing and strik-
14 ing the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of ma-
15 chinery, and overhead expenses.

16 (f) NO EXPENDITURES IN ADVANCE OF RECEIPT OF
17 FUNDS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treas-
19 ury shall not strike or distribute any medals under
20 this Act until such time as the Secretary of Health
21 and Human Services certifies that sufficient funds
22 have been received by such Secretary to cover the
23 cost of the medals ordered.

24 (2) DESIGN IN ADVANCE OF ORDER.—Notwith-
25 standing paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Treas-

1 Procurement and Transplantation Network estab-
2 lished under section 372 of the Public Health Serv-
3 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 274).