**[Eye Bank Logo(s) across top of page]**

The Honorable **[name]** – *use “Your Excellency” for Massachusetts and South Carolina Governors*

Governor of **[state]**

**[address line 1]**

**[address line 2]**

**[city, state zip code]**

Dear Governor **[surname]:**

For 56 years, the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) and its members have set standards, provided education, and engaged in advocacy to support eye donation, and cornea transplantation and research. As the leading voice of the eye banking community, EBAA and its 87 member banks request **[state]**’ssupport on behalf of the eye banking community's vision of restoring sight and eliminating corneal blindness worldwide.

EBAA promotes March as “National Eye Donor Month” annually to raise eye donation awareness, honor donors, celebrate recipients and acknowledge eye bank and physician efforts in the donation process. President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first National Eye Donor Month in 1983, and since then, a member of Congress has read a proclamation into the Congressional Record to support eye donation.

The eye banking community knows firsthand the profound effect of sight-restoring corneal transplants, which changes the lives of over 75,000 people each year. There are **[number of eye banks in your state]** eye banks in **[state]** that recover and provide transplantable tissue to **[state]**’s citizens. Last year, through the charitable donation of ocular tissue from fellow **[state]** residents, our eye banks provided **[total number of corneas transplanted in your state]** to help fellow **[state demonym]**, and patients around the world, regain their sight.

The efforts of EBAA, its member banks, corneal surgeons, and certified eye bank technicians (CEBTs) have contributed to advancements in corneal surgery. Our industry-leading medical standards, acknowledged and respected by government and peers alike, have also contributed to the efficacy and safety of corneal tissue. These achievements would not have been possible without the selfless gifts of donors and donor families, the dedication of eye bankers, corneal surgeons and CEBTs, and the support of those like you, who assist us in increasing eye donation awareness.

We would be honored if you would declare March 2017 as “Eye Donor Month” in **[state]**. **[state demonym]** have long benefited from sight-restoring corneal transplants; with your support to increase eye donation awareness, many more will be afforded the same opportunity.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of us or Yolanda Raine in the EBAA office at 202-775-4999, ext 118.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

[ED Signature] [ED Signature] [ED Signature]

[ED Name] [ED Name] [ED Name]

[Telephone Number] [Telephone Number] [Telephone Number]