**GOVERNOR PROCLAMATION SAMPLE LETTER**

**[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]**

Dear Governor **[surname]:**

Since 1961, the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) and its members have provided the gold standard of tissue accreditation, education, training, certification, and advocacy to support eye donation and cornea transplantation and research. As the leading voice of the eye banking community, EBAA and its member eye banks request **[state]**’s support on behalf of our collective mission to restore sight and eliminate corneal blindness worldwide.

Across your state, the nation, and world, nearly 10 million people suffer from cornea blindness due to various diseases or trauma. Many of these cases can be corrected by corneal transplantation, completed using a donated cornea from a selfless eye donor. Every November, EBAA promotes “Eye Donation Month” to raise eye donation awareness, honor donors, celebrate recipients, and acknowledge eye bank and physician efforts in the donation process.

In 2019, EBAA hit the milestone mark of over two million transplants performed by member eye banks since 1961. 85,601 corneas were used for transplant with a more than 95 percent success rate, providing $6+ billion in lifetime economic benefits, along with an unquantifiable amount of gratitude from recipients able to live fuller, happier, lives.

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 cornea donation 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.

EBAA member banks, corneal surgeons, and certified eye bank technicians (CEBTs) are innovators - leading the way for advancements in corneal surgery. Our medical standards are acknowledged and respected by government and peers alike, ensuring the efficacy and safety of corneal tissue. These achievements are not possible without the selfless gifts from donors and donor families, the dedication of eye bankers, corneal surgeons and CEBTs, and the support of leaders like you, who assist us in increasing eye donation awareness.

We would be honored if you would declare November 2020 as “Eye Donation 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 contact one of us or Colleen Bayus in the EBAA office at 202-775- 4999, ext 118.



Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

[ED Signature]

[ED Name] [Telephone Number]

**#eyedonationmonth**

**eyedonationmonth.org**