



June 27, 2011

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation,

The Michigan Eye-Bank strongly endorses passing the bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled "Michigan Vehicle Code", (MCL 257.1 to 257.923) by adding section 811t. This addition would allow the Michigan Secretary of State to issue a fund-raising plate recognizing anatomical gift donation. Besides increasing community awareness about the need for our residents to join the Michigan Organ Donor Registry, these specialized plates would help affirm that many people in our great state share the idea that eye, organ and tissue donation adds value to society by saving or improving the lives of thousands each year.

Furthermore, the disbursement of funds raised through the sale of these plates to support donor awareness initiatives would help build a public campaign to increase the number of registrants as Michigan currently ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the country in relation to the percentage of adults on their state's donor registry. Many things need to be done to improve this percentage—building awareness in Michigan through state endorsed initiatives would support the work that we, along with our partners at Gift of Life Michigan, do as a human service organization every day.

The Michigan Eye-Bank is fortunate to have over 500 cornea recipient and eye donor family member volunteers and we are a State Project of the Michigan Lions, a community service group with over 12,000 members statewide. I am confident that many of these constituents would be proud to purchase and display the *Donate Life* license plate if given the chance.

The Michigan Eye-Bank is a charitable, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of sight. We recover, evaluate and distribute human eye tissue for transplantation. We also support research into the causes and cures of blinding eye conditions, promote donation awareness through public and professional education, and provide humanitarian aid to people in need of corneal transplantation. For more information, please visit the Michigan Eye-Bank online at [www.michiganeyebank.org](http://www.michiganeyebank.org) or call (800) 247-7250.

Sincerely,

Lisa Langley, RN, BSN  
Executive Director

