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December 7, 2011

The Honorable Paul E. Opsommer
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Representative Opsommer and members of the committee:

The Michigan Eye-Bank strongly supports House Bill 4978 to create a donate life license plate and a donate life fund for the people of Michigan.

Having funds designated to support donor awareness would move us one step closer to saving and improving the lives of others through the gifts of life, sight and mobility. These funds, would support donor awareness initiatives and help build a public campaign to increase the number of registrants as Michigan currently ranks 46th 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 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 or call (800) 247-7250.

Sincerely,

Lisa Langley

Lisa Langley, RN, BSN
Executive Director