

December 14, 2006

Commissioner Carlyle C. Ring, Jr.
Chairman
Drafting Committee on the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (2006)
National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws
211 E. Ontario Street, Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60611

Suite 700
1101 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20005-3570

Tel. 202.737.6662
Fax 202.737.7061
<http://www.aao.org>

FEDERAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

RE: Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act of 2006

Dear Commissioner Ring:

The American Academy of Ophthalmology is pleased to endorse the 2006 Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act as promulgated by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. The Revised Act will greatly enhance the opportunity for the donation and transplantation of precious life giving and life enhancing anatomical gifts. One of these precious gifts, is the gift of sight. The gifting of human eyes can allow another the opportunity to see. It can also provide the opportunity for research into diseases of eye and vision deterioration, resulting in new treatments, rehabilitation, and hope for the future.

Many individuals can be donors of eye and tissue gifts. The need is great and will continue to increase as the population ages and grows. The Revised Act will make it easier to express one's desire to donate and will help ensure that donation wishes are respected wherever the donor may be when death occurs.

Uniformity among the states is critical to ensure that a donor's wishes will be honored to the greatest possible extent. We appeal to state legislatures to undertake a thorough review of their state anatomical gift laws and to include the provisions in the revised model act so that the benefits of the Revised Act are realized.

We thank the Conference for their work in the area. The Academy will work with state-based organizations to get the message of support out to State legislatures.

Sincerely,



Michael X. Repka, M.D.
Secretary of Federal Affairs