



# The Cornea Society

Founded 1975

December 13, 2006

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Address Changes Requested

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

## RE: Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act of 2006

Dear Commissioner Ring:

The Cornea Society ([www.corneasociety.org](http://www.corneasociety.org)) is pleased to add our endorsement to the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act of 2006.

The first cornea transplant occurred in 1905, and the first eye bank opened in New York in 1944. The eye bank marked the first organized attempt to facilitate the transfer of tissue from donor to patient. Following this successful model, other eye banks were opened across the United States. Through the years, medical technological innovation has developed procedures which have resulted in the successful transplantation of organs and other tissues.

In 1968, a model Uniform Anatomical Gift Act established the right of Americans to donate eyes, tissues and organs -- life saving and life enhancing anatomical gifts. This model act was adopted by the states and serves as the framework for the gifting process that exists today. The anatomical gifting process has provided precious gifts to millions of Americans over the years allowing the gift of life, restored vision, and physical function that would otherwise have been lost.

The member physicians of this Society have first hand experience in witnessing the invaluable gift of sight restoration resulting from ocular donation. The Cornea Society is the largest Professional Physician Organization solely representing Corneal Surgeons. We also appreciate the donation of ocular gifts for research into diseases that destroy sight and the opportunity for vision correction and repair.

The Act must be updated to keep pace with medical technological advances and federal and state regulatory changes to continue to provide optimal donation opportunity wherever one resides. This summer, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws promulgated a Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act for circulation to each of the fifty states. The Society congratulates you on this initiative and will help support enactment at the state level.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Belin, MD,  
Professor of Ophthalmology – Albany Medical College  
President – Cornea Society