

Rep. Zemke offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 309.

A resolution to declare March 2014 as Eye Donor Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The state of Michigan is committed to supporting eye donation awareness, an issue that highlights the importance of providing sight-restoring opportunities; and

Whereas, Eye Donor Month will increase public knowledge and support of advancements in corneal surgery and transplants that will contribute to future generations' sight-advancement opportunities; and

Whereas, Corneal transplants are one of the most common transplant procedures, yet the Mayo Clinic reports that 10,000,000 people worldwide are affected by various disorders that would benefit from corneal transplantation; and

Whereas, The Eye Bank Association of America and its member banks restore sight and change lives of over 70,000 people each year; and

Whereas, The Michigan Eye-Bank provided 1,017 corneal transplants to Michiganders and other patients worldwide; and

Whereas, The Michigan Eye-Bank contributes important resources toward finding innovative treatments and cures for widespread blinding eye diseases; and

Whereas, Promoting eye donation awareness and acknowledging the commodity and service donors provide will increase tissue safety and efficacy of corneal tissue as well as the number of tissue donations for Michiganders; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare March 2014 as Eye Donor Month in the state of Michigan. We encourage eye banks, medical facilities and institutions, health educators, and policy makers to support this event; and be it further

Resolved, That we support the corneal researchers, technicians, the eye banking community, and policymakers as they work to advance the technologies and methods in medical standards of transplant surgery; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage health fairs, school education programs, and community outreach projects as well as the production of print and broadcast information designed to educate the community about their important role in sight restoration.