



Eye Bank Association of America

# PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
March 20, 2008

For More Information, Contact:  
Patricia Hardy, Member Services Coordinator  
202-775-4999 x18 [trish@restoresight.org](mailto:trish@restoresight.org)

## **U.S. SENATOR SHERROD BROWN PROCLAIMS MARCH “NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH”**

United States Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) entered a proclamation into the Congressional Record on March 12, declaring March 2008 as “National Eye Donor Month.” This is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National Eye Donor Month. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first National Eye Donor Month.

Sen. Brown thanked everyone who gave the gift of sight and encouraged more people to become donors. He also said most of us take our ability to see for granted. “We read our books, watch our children grow, and find our loved ones in a crowded room – and don’t give it a second thought,” Sen. Brown said. “But what if you lost that ability, that gift of sight – or never had it at all.”

He encouraged his colleagues to work with the EBAA and local eye banks to promote eye donation. Sen. Brown also encouraged his colleagues and fellow citizens to consider being an eye donor. “Thousands of people around the country are waiting for it,” he said.

A complete copy of Sen. Brown’s proclamation is available on the EBAA’s website at [http://www.restoresight.org/general/08edm\\_floorstatement.pdf](http://www.restoresight.org/general/08edm_floorstatement.pdf).

The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), established in 1961, is the oldest transplant association in the nation. The EBAA is dedicated to the restoration of sight through the promotion and advancement of eye banking. It has led the transplantation field with the establishment of

medical standards for the distribution of eyes and comprehensive training and certification programs for eye banking personnel. These standards have been used as models for other transplantation organizations. Member eye banks operate in the United States, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. These eye banks make possible more than 46,000 sight-restoring corneal transplants annually.

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EBA • 1015 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 1010 • Washington, DC 20036 • [www.restoresight.org](http://www.restoresight.org)