

# Florida Lions Eye Bank

*"A Major Project of the Lions of Florida"*



November 8, 2001

Dear Florida Legislators,

The Florida Lions Eye Bank is a non-profit organization that provides corneal and scleral tissue needed for ocular transplants. We, in fact, provided a whole sclera for Joseph Bergsma on July 16, 1999 when his eye had to be removed due to a malignant retinoblastoma. Unfortunately, that same year we provided over 15 whole scleras for patients under the age of five who had to have an eye removed because of this disease. Some of these patients were lucky to only lose their eye. Some, like Joseph, eventually lost their lives.

Fortunately, there is a way to save the vision and lives of many young children who have this disease and early diagnosis is the key. A simple test using an ophthalmoscope, along with dilation of the eye, can be performed on newborns and infants that may help detect retinoblastoma early enough to make a difference. The Florida Lions Eye Bank adamantly supports legislation for required testing for retinoblastoma at birth and each well-baby exam thereafter, in the state of Florida. Consider the difference that this could make if the vision or life of even one child could be saved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Anne Taylor".

Mary Anne Taylor, M.S.  
Executive Director

**BASCOM PALMER EYE INSTITUTE**

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