AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

HELP PROTECT CHILDREN'S VISION BY EXPANDING EARLY DETECTION AND ACCESS TO CARE

H.R. 2527 - Early Detection of Vision Impairments in Children Act (EDVI) Fact Sheet

In the U.S., 1 in every 4 children has a vision disorder that requires diagnosis and treatment by an eye doctor, yet most may never see an eye doctor. Undiagnosed and untreated eye disorders have enormous, long-lasting consequences for kids.

The bipartisan EDVI Act, introduced by Reps. Gus Bilirakis, R-Fla., and Marc Veasey, D-Texas, would establish the first federally funded program to address children's vision and eye health.

Key Facts:

- Amends the Public Health Service Act to improve children's vision and eye health
- Authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants and cooperative agreements to eligible entities to develop and implement statewide early detection and intervention programs and systems related to children's vision and eye health
- Authorizes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to establish a national technical assistance center to provide guidance to any state or community implementing, updating, or improving children's vision programs

Summary:

The EDVI Act will provide grants for states and communities to establish, modernize, or improve state-based programs that foster coordinated systems of care for children's vision and eye health. The EDVI Act also creates a technical assistance center to support states and communities in their efforts to develop systems of care.

What can the grants be used for?

1. Implementing early detection practices and intervention initiatives for the purpose of identifying vision concerns in children, to promote referrals for eye care, and establish follow-up mechanisms to ensure care was received
2. Raising awareness to the public of the importance of vision and eye health in children
3. Reducing disparities in eye health
4. Developing state-based data collection, surveillance, and performance improvement systems

Who is eligible for the grants?

States, territories, Indian tribes or Tribal organizations, or Urban Indian organizations including a state or community department of children and families, health or public health, or a state educational agency