

EDVI | Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children Act

H.R. 2527, the **Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children (EDVI) Act**, introduced in March 2025, is bipartisan legislation, co-sponsored by **Congressional Vision Caucus (CVC)** co-chairs, **U.S. Representative Gus Bilirakis (FL-12)**, and **U.S. Representative Marc Veasey (TX-33)**. The EDVI Act seeks to improve the vision and eye health of children across the United States by providing resources to states and communities to establish or improve systems of care for children's vision and eye health through early detection and intervention models for vision screening, referrals to eye care, and follow-up to eye care treatment.

State-Based Information on Children's Vision and Eye Health

Scan the QR code with your smart phone to learn more about children's vision and eye health in your home state as based on data collected in the National Survey for Children's Health.

Background:

A child's vision develops and changes from birth through childhood. Thus, a child should be screened regularly, referred to eye care, and receive any needed treatment and follow-up to ensure vision problems are caught and treated early. Despite the presence of numerous public health programs that support early childhood development, including children's hearing and oral health, ***there is currently no federally funded program in the United States that specifically addresses children's vision*** or that fosters a cohesive and equitable system of eye health for children—even as early detection and intervention for vision disorders in children are part of national goals and health care standards. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **more than one in every four children in America, or roughly 19.6 million**, have a vision problem requiring treatment. If left untreated, common vision disorders in childhood, such as amblyopia (lazy eye), strabismus (crossed eyes), myopia (nearsightedness), or hyperopia (farsightedness), may in the short term, impede academic progress and development and, in the long term, lead to permanent vision impairment or blindness that follows a child into adulthood and affect independence, economic productivity, and quality of life. Passing this important legislation would indicate Congress's commitment to protecting the eyesight of our nation's children and preventing avoidable vision loss and blindness in children.

The State of Children's Vision and Eye Health:

States and communities are best positioned to implement a public health system of care for children's vision and eye health through community, early learning, and school-based health approaches. According to the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health, significant disparities exist in children's vision and eye health outcomes and access to eye care across the US. Professional guidelines and state laws can vary widely in approaches and protocols and be outdated. Activities to improve surveillance, vision screening and referral practices, access to professional eye care, and coordination with the child's medical home are critical steps for improving children's vision and eye health. However, many states and communities lack the resources to carry out these activities or conduct surveillance needed to identify and address disparities in eye care access. Thus, many children are not receiving timely and needed eye care to diagnosis and treat vision problems.

Prevent Blindness

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Summary of Legislation:

H.R. 2527, the Early Detection of Vision Impairments in Children Act (EDVI) will establish state and community based EDVI programs across the United States to address children's vision and eye health. The EDVI Act would establish the first national-level program to specifically address children's vision and eye health. The EDVI Act models the bipartisan success of the **Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program** that has **drastically increased** the rates of screening and referral to care for infants with hearing loss since 1999. Like the EHDI program, the EDVI Act will provide states and communities with grant funding to improve, update, and modernize state and community approaches to children's vision and eye health.

Under the EDVI Act, the **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will award grants and cooperative agreements for states, communities, and tribes to:

- Implement approaches (such as vision screenings) for the early detection of vision concerns in children, referrals for eye exams, and follow-up mechanisms;
- identify barriers in access to eye care;
- reduce disparities in eye health; and/or
- develop state-based data collection, surveillance, and performance improvement systems.

Resources will also be made available through the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** to establish a national level technical assistance center to provide guidance to any state or community implementing children's vision programs and to advance population health research priorities in children's vision.

To Co-Sponsor the EDVI Act please contact:

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Over **100 organizations** that represent patients, providers, families and children, public health professionals, education and school health professionals, and community-based groups and have endorsed the EDVI Act.

For children, the path to eye care is not always clear.



For more information about the EDVI Act, please contact:

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Prevent Blindness
Our Vision Is Vision.