

Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children Act (EDVI Act) Advocacy Resources for Organizations



The **Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children Act (EDVI)** will establish state-based EDVI programs across the United States that foster coordinated systems of care for children's vision and eye health. This legislation would create the first federal program that specifically addresses children's vision and eye health in the United States.

Prevent Blindness thanks our partners and advocates for their dedicated efforts in support of advancing children's vision and eye health in the United States and has put together this toolkit for organizations to endorse and advance the EDVI Act. Please also visit the [EDVI Act website](#) for additional information, including downloadable fact sheets and resources.

Note: For the most recent version and legislative text of the EDVI Act, please visit [congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov).

Organizational Endorsement of the EDVI Act

Organizational endorsements are a form of community advocacy that helps amplify support for a policy. Organizations typically endorse a bill to bring different perspectives about how a bill or policy will benefit their community. Organizations that endorse a bill can offer their resources in a variety of ways, such as advocating lawmakers for support of the bill or asking their community or membership to write letters of support, to help advance legislation.

The EDVI Act is endorsed by nearly 100 organizations, including: American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Academy of Optometry, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, American Society of Ophthalmic Registered Nurses, American Optometric Association, Association of Clinicians for the Underserved, Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, Family Voices, First Focus Campaign for Children, Healthy Schools Campaign, National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research, the National Association of School Nurses, the School-Based Health Alliance, The Vision Council, and the Vision Health Advocacy Coalition among others.

- For a **downloadable list** of the EDVI Act supporting organizations, please visit the [EDVI Act webpage](#).
- Organizations are invited to endorse the EDVI Act. Please contact Sara Brown, Senior Director of Government Affairs, at sbrown@preventblindness.org to sign on.



For more information, please contact:
Sara Brown, Senior Director of Government Affairs
sbrown@preventblindness.org, 312.363.6031

Advocacy Resources for Organizations

Organizational Letter of Support Templates

These letter templates are customizable to reflect your organization's and/or its membership's priorities and support for the EDVI Act. Please cut+copy+paste the below text onto your organization's letterhead and replace the **HIGHLIGHTED** items with pertinent information.

- **Note:** There are active web-based links in the text below that are used for references. Be sure they carry over into your letter.

DATE

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
U.S. House of Representatives
2227 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marc Veasey
U.S. House of Representatives
2348 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bilirakis and Veasey:

On behalf of **ORGANIZATION NAME**, I write to express support for **H.R. xxxx**, the **Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children (EDVI) Act**. **ORGANIZATION** thanks you for your leadership of this important legislation to establish a first-of-its-kind federal program that will specifically address children's vision and eye health, and we encourage you to work with your colleagues to swiftly pass this important bill.

The goal of the EDVI Act is to ensure that every child with a possible vision problem is identified and connected to appropriate eye care, to support early childhood professionals, health care providers, and families with updated and evidence-based vision screening methods and established referrals to care, and advance follow-up protocols to ensure that children who need eye care treatment receive it before a vision problem leads to potential vision loss.

According to the [National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health](#), children across the United States face disparate levels of access to eye care due to the significant variety of state- and community-based approaches to children's vision and eye health. Several long-standing, federal-level public health programs address various aspects of a child's health, development, and well-being—including oral and hearing care—through funding for states, technical assistance, professional development and training, stakeholder collaboration, and public engagement. **However, no such federal program exists for children's vision and eye health**, even as early detection and intervention for vision disorders in children are part of [national goals](#) and [health care standards](#). Without the EDVI Act, states and communities—and ultimately children and families—will continue to lack the resources to maintain eye health in children.

[OPTIONAL – INSERT A FEW SENTENCES ABOUT HOW THE EDVI ACT WILL BENEFIT YOUR ORGANIZATION AND/OR YOUR MEMBERS.]

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 the necessary resources to integrate vision and eye health into ongoing programs and systems of care that already address other aspects of children's physical, behavioral, and sensory health in places such as early learning, school-based, public health, and community-based health settings. **ORGANIZATION** believes that this is the right approach to model for children's vision and eye health, and we look forward to working with you to advance this critical legislation.

If you or a member of your staff have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact **ORGANIZATION'S CONTACT NAME/ TITLE/ EMAIL ADDRESS AND/OR PHONE NUMBER.**

Sincerely,
NAME OF ORGANIZATION CONTACT

Call to Action Template for Newsletters, Blog Posts, and Member Updates

The following text are customizable for use in your organization's newsletters, blog posts, or member updates to inform about your organization's support of the EDVI Act and to direct those interested to more information about the legislation.

ORGANIZATION has proudly endorsed the **Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children (EDVI) Act**. This bipartisan legislation, introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressional Vision Caucus Co-Chairs Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-12) and Rep. Marc Veasey (D-TX-33), seeks to create the first federal public health program dedicated to addressing children's vision and eye health through grant-based funding and technical assistance for states and communities.

The goal of the EDVI Act is to ensure that every child with a possible vision problem is identified and connected to appropriate eye care, to support early childhood professionals, health care providers, and families with updated and evidence-based vision screening methods and established referrals to care, and advance follow-up protocols to ensure that children who need eye care treatment receive it before a vision problem leads to potential vision loss.

ORGANIZATION and Prevent Blindness are asking the public to show support for the EDVI Act and its goal of supporting children's vision and eye health by contacting their members of Congress and asking for their support of the EDVI Act. Individuals can contact their Representative in support of the bill by visiting the [Prevent Blindness Legislative Action Center](#).

For more information on the EDVI Act, please visit the Prevent Blindness [EDVI website](#).

Social Media Messaging, Tools, and Graphics

Organizations that have a presence online and across a variety of social media platforms have a powerful tool to promote the conversation around the EDVI Act. Prevent Blindness has prepared the following hashtags, tools, and graphics for organizational partner use. Use the suggested posts in your captions, and please be sure to tag Prevent Blindness in your posts so we can amplify your voices.

Prevent Blindness Websites:

- Main Website: PreventBlindness.org
- Advocacy Action Center: Advocacy.PreventBlindness.org
- **EDVI Act Website:** PreventBlindness.org/edvi-act

Prevent Blindness Social Media Accounts:

- X (formerly known as Twitter):
 - [@PBA SavingSight](#) – General
 - [@EyesOnCapHill](#) – Advocacy and Government Affairs
- [Instagram](#)
- [Threads](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [YouTube](#)

Suggested Hashtags: #EDVIAct #SupportTheEDVIAct

Suggested Social Media Posts and Captions

The following suggested posts are a guide for use in posting with social media graphics. Please feel free to customize your own post if you prefer, and to input your organization in the highlighted areas.

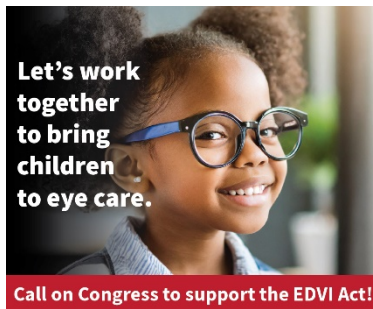
- **[ORGANIZATION]** is proud to support the introduction of the #EDVIAct. This landmark, bipartisan legislation will specifically address children's vision by providing grants to support systems of care for children's vision and eye health. We call on Congress to #SupportTheEDVIAct and invite advocates to do the same: Advocacy.PreventBlindness.org/prevent-blindness-legislative-action-center
- **[ORGANIZATION]** applauds @RepGusBilirakis and @RepVeasey for their bipartisan leadership in introducing the #EDVIAct. Contact your Member of Congress and ask them to support children's vision and eye health: Advocacy.PreventBlindness.org/prevent-blindness-legislative-action-center #SupportTheEDVIAct
- Early detection and intervention of vision problems can help a child avoid preventable vision loss and blindness. The #EDVIAct is a crucial step in providing children with the services and eye health care they need and deserve. PreventBlindness.org/edvi-act #SupportTheEDVIAct
- The path to eye care for children is not always clear. The #EDVIAct promotes a system of care— including early detection (such as vision screening), referral to eye care, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up to care— that ensures that childhood vision problems are caught and

treated before progressing to unnecessary permanent vision loss. Learn more here: PreventBlindness.org/edvi-act

- The #EDVIAct creates resources for states and communities to use to improve children's vision and eye health. Congress can pass the #EDVIAct to help ensure children have access to sight-saving eye care. Here's how you can help: Advocacy.PreventBlindness.org/prevent-blindness-legislative-action-center

Downloadable and Shareable Graphics

Graphics are available for use in social media posts, newsletters, or adding to your website to help drive support for the EDVI Act. Use the suggested posts and captions and tag Prevent Blindness with the appropriate hashtags and Call to Action link! Download at: Advocacy.PreventBlindness.org/edvi-act-social-media-toolkit/



PreventBlindness.org/edvi-act



PreventBlindness.org/edvi-act



PreventBlindness.org/edvi-act

Web Sticker

Add this web sticker to your organization's website, which will direct those interested in learning more about the EDVI Act or taking action to the Prevent Blindness Legislative Action Center. Simply copy the code below **AS IS** and embed it on your website.

- **Note: Do not modify the code below or it may not function properly on your site!**

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="//www.congressweb.com/webstickers/js/jquery.min.js"></script>
<script type="text/javascript"
src="//www.congressweb.com/webstickers/js/iframeResizer.min.js"></script>
<iframe id="congressweb_websticker_Custom_710A8679-A051-F7B5-4D14F3258E1D9A7A"
src="//www.congressweb.com/webstickers/index.cfm?action=getStickerHTML&publicAccountId=BDD
FBC37-D53A-4C9B-A38FE1300EB37FA0&webstickerId=710A8679-A051-F7B5-
4D14F3258E1D9A7A&siteId=preventblindness" frameborder="0" width="100%"
scrolling="no"></iframe>
<script type="text/javascript">$cwebwebstickers('#congressweb_websticker_Custom_710A8679-
A051-F7B5-4D14F3258E1D9A7A').iFrameResize();</script>
```

Additional Resources on Children's Vision and Eye Health

- [National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health](#)
- [Prevent Blindness Eye and Vision Fact Sheets](#)
- **EDVI Act Website and Resources** – www.PreventBlindness.org/edvi-act
 - [EDVI Act Frequently Asked Questions, Summary, and Issue Briefs](#)
 - [Children's Vision and Eye Health State-Based Fact Sheets](#)
 - 50 fact sheets containing the most up-to-date information on children's vision and eye health in your state.
 - [Prevent Blindness Legislative Action Center](#)