

EDVI | Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children Act

EDVI Act Advocacy Toolkit: For Advocates

The **Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children (EDVI) Act (H.R. 2527)** would create the first federal program dedicated to children's vision and eye health. It is bipartisan legislation co-led by the co-chairs of the Congressional Vision Caucus, Rep. Marc Veasey (TX-33) and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-12).

This toolkit is for people who want to learn about the bill and help build support. Use it to contact your U.S. representative, share your experience or talk about the EDVI Act in your community.

Why It Matters

More than 1 in 4 children in the U.S., roughly 19.6 million, have a vision problem that needs treatment. Yet there is no federal program focused on children's vision, even though we have programs that address other priorities, such as children's hearing and oral health. Untreated vision problems can hold kids back in school and lead to permanent vision loss.

State systems are uneven. As of 2024, only 39 states require vision screening for school-age children, and just 26 require it for preschool-age children. Even where screening happens, many states lack the follow-up to make sure a child who fails a screening actually gets to an eye exam and treatment.

What The EDVI Act Would Do

Once passed and funded, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) would award grants to states and communities to build coordinated systems of care for children's vision that emphasize the following: early detection such as screening, referral, treatment and assistive services, and follow-up. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) would run a national technical assistance center to support this work, and the bill improves data collection so states can find and close gaps in access.

The EDVI Act is modeled on the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program, which has sharply increased screening and follow-up care for infants with hearing loss since 1999. By replicating what works for children's hearing, we hope to achieve the same thing for children's vision.

The EDVI Act is endorsed by 115+ organizations representing patients, providers, families, public health, schools, and community groups. See the current list of EDVI Act supporters

Prevent Blindness

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

A Few Ways To Take Action

Contact Your Representative

Send a message asking your representative to co-sponsor the EDVI Act. The Prevent Blindness Legislative Action Center will identify your representative and provide a message you can personalize.
Ask your representative to support the EDVI Act

Share Your Story

A personal experience can help policymakers understand what early detection, delayed care or vision loss means for a child and family. Use the Prevent Blindness form to share a story about yourself or someone you care about. Prevent Blindness will protect your privacy and contact you for additional details before sharing your story.
Share your vision and eye health story

Post About The EDVI Act

Tell your network why children's vision matters, tag your representative and ask them to support H.R. 2527. The social media toolkit includes sample language and graphics you can adapt.
Use the EDVI Act social media toolkit

Stay Involved

Sign up for Prevent Blindness advocacy alerts to hear when your voice can make a difference on the EDVI Act and other vision and eye health issues.
Sign up for advocacy alerts

Want To Take The Next Step? Meet With Your Representative

Not sure who your representative is? Use the Prevent Blindness legislator directory to find your U.S. representative's website and social media accounts.

On the representative's official website, look for a page labeled "Request a Meeting," "Schedule a Meeting," or "Contact." Complete the online form or call the office and ask to meet in Washington, D.C., or at a district office to discuss the EDVI Act. Your meeting may be with the representative or a staff member, and both are valuable. Use the talking points to guide your conversation and bring a printed copy of the one-page overview to leave with the office. You do not need to be a policy expert to explain why children's vision matters to you.

EDVI

Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children Act

What is the EDVI Act?

- The Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children (EDVI) Act (H.R. 2527) is a bipartisan bill to create the first federal program dedicated to children's vision and eye health, led by Reps. Veasey and Bilirakis.

Why does this matter?

- 1 in 4 children in the U.S. has a vision problem that needs treatment.
- There is no federal program focused on children's vision, even though we have one for children's hearing and oral health.
- Untreated vision problems can impact learning, hold kids back in school, and lead to permanent vision loss that follows a child into adulthood.

Kids' eyes change as they grow, which means vision problems can show up at any point in childhood. Catching them early matters. A child who can't see clearly can't learn the way they should.

What does it do?

- Funds states and communities to build coordinated systems of care for children's vision: early detection such as screening, referral, treatment and services, and follow-up.
- Creates a national technical assistance center to support states in this work.
- Improves data collection so we can identify and close gaps in eye care access.

Built on a proven model

The EDVI Act is modeled on the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program, a long-standing, bipartisan federal program that has dramatically increased screening and follow-up care for infants with hearing loss since 1999. EDVI doesn't duplicate any existing federal program. It applies a model that already works and touches over 59 states and territories.

The ask: Please co-sponsor the EDVI Act (H.R. 2527)

Endorsed by 115+ organizations representing patients, providers, families, public health, schools, and community groups.

See what's happening in your state

Scan to see children's vision and eye health data for your state, drawn from the National Survey of Children's Health.

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EDVI Act Talking Points

A quick reference for your conversations with legislators and their staff. You don't need to cover everything. Lead with what feels most true to you, and share your own vision story if you have one.

The Core Message

- **The EDVI Act would create the first federal program dedicated to children's vision and eye health.** It's bipartisan legislation (H.R. 2527), co-led by the co-chairs of the Congressional Vision Caucus, Rep. Marc Veasey (TX-33) and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-12).
- **More than 1 in 4 children in the U.S. has a vision problem that needs treatment.** That's roughly 19.6 million children (CDC).
- **There's no federal program focused on children's vision, even though we have one for hearing and oral health.** Children's vision keeps getting overlooked as a public health priority.
- **Catching vision problems early matters.** A child who can't see clearly can't learn the way they should. Caught early, many childhood vision problems can be treated. Missed, they can lead to permanent vision loss.
- **The ask: please co-sponsor the EDVI Act (H.R. 2527)**

If They Ask for More

- **What would the bill actually do?** It funds states and communities to build coordinated systems of care for children's vision: screening, referral, treatment, and follow-up. It also creates a national technical assistance center, researches best practices, and improves data collection so states can find and close gaps in eye health.
- **Why a federal program, and not just leave it to states?** Today, access to eye care varies widely from state to state. Even where screening happens, many states lack the follow-up to make sure a child who fails a screening actually gets to an eye exam and treatment. The EDVI Act helps states build and strengthen those systems.
- **Is this a proven approach?** Yes. The EDVI Act is modeled on the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program, which has sharply increased screening and follow-up care for infants with hearing loss since 1999. It applies a model that already works.
- **Who supports it?** The EDVI Act is endorsed by 115+ organizations representing patients, providers, families, public health, schools, and community groups.

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EDVI | Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children Act

EDVI Act Social Media Toolkit

Ready-to-use posts, captions, and guidance to help you rally support for the EDVI Act online. Copy a post, add your own touch, and share. Please tag Prevent Blindness so we can amplify you.

How to Use This Toolkit

The posts below are grouped by purpose. Under each one you'll find versions sized for different platforms. Pick the purpose that fits what you want to say, then use the version for wherever you're posting.

A few things that make posts work better

- Faces and video beat graphics. A real photo or a short video of a child, a family, or you telling why this matters will almost always outperform a static graphic. Use the EDVI graphics but swap in your own photo or a quick video whenever you can.
- Lead with plain words, not policy. Open with something a person would actually say or search, like "children's vision" or "school vision screening." Keyword-rich openings now do more for reach than hashtags do. Examples of that are: children's vision, school vision screening, early detection, eye health, follow-up eye care
- Links work differently by platform. Facebook and LinkedIn let you paste a clickable link right in the post. Instagram doesn't allow clickable links in captions, so if you already have a link in your bio, point people there with "link in bio." If not, don't worry about setting one up. Just tell people where to go, like "search Prevent Blindness EDVI Act" or "visit advocacy.preventblindness.org"

Which Platform And Why

- Instagram is for reaching a warm, values-driven audience. Keep it short, lead with the hook in the first line, pair it with a strong image or reel. Use link in bio when you can.
- Facebook reaches constituents and older audiences who click links and share. Medium length, clickable Action Center link, good for the direct "contact your representative" ask.
- LinkedIn reaches partner organizations and professional stakeholders. A little longer and more formal, lead with credibility and coalition, few or no hashtags.
- X is optional and lower priority. Short, one clear ask, tag the sponsors. Include it if it's already part of your channels.

Find Your Member of Congress or Senator's Social Media Accounts

Use the Prevent Blindness legislator directory to find your representative's website and social media accounts.

Find your U.S. representative

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Sample Posts

1. Introduce the EDVI Act

- **Instagram**
  - Children's vision shapes how they learn, play, and grow. Yet there's no federal program dedicated to it. The EDVI Act would change that. Tell Congress to support it. #EDVIAct #SupportTheEDVIAct #ChildrensVision
- **Facebook**
  - More than 1 in 4 children in the U.S. has a vision problem that needs treatment, but there's no federal program focused on children's vision, even though we have one for hearing and oral health. The EDVI Act (H.R. 2527) would create the first. Ask your representative to co-sponsor EDVI: Advocacy.PreventBlindness.org #EDVIAct
- **LinkedIn**
  - The Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children (EDVI) Act would create the first federal program dedicated to children's vision and eye health. It's bipartisan, endorsed by 115+ organizations, and modeled on the proven success of the EHDI program for children's hearing. We're proud to support it and invite fellow organizations to do the same: Advocacy.PreventBlindness.org

2. Ask your representative to co-sponsor

- **Instagram**
  - Two minutes today can help protect kids' sight. Ask your member of Congress to co-sponsor the EDVI Act and give every child a fair shot at the eye care they need. Link in bio. #EDVIAct #SupportTheEDVIAct
- **Facebook**
  - You can help pass the EDVI Act in about two minutes. Send a message asking your representative to co-sponsor this bipartisan bill for children's vision: Advocacy.PreventBlindness.org #SupportTheEDVIAct
- **X**
  - Every child deserves the eye care they need to learn and thrive. Ask your rep to co-sponsor the #EDVIAct: Advocacy.PreventBlindness.org @EyesOnCapHill

3. Why early detection matters

- **Instagram**
  - Caught early, many childhood vision problems can be treated. Missed, they can lead to permanent vision loss and hold kids back in school. The EDVI Act builds the systems to catch them in time. Link in bio. #EDVIAct #ChildrensVision
- **Facebook**
  - A child who can't see clearly can't learn the way they should. Early detection and follow-up care make the difference. The EDVI Act helps states build the systems to make sure kids who need eye care actually get it. Learn more: PreventBlindness.org/edvi-act

4. Timely / seasonal hook

Swap the occasion as the calendar moves (e.g. Children's Eye Health and Safety Month in August, back-to-school in fall, World Sight Day in October).

- **Instagram / Facebook / LinkedIn**
  - It's Children's Eye Health and SafetyMonth, a good time to remember that healthy vision is where learning starts. Ask your representative to support the EDVI Act for children's vision. [Facebook: Advocacy.PreventBlindness.org] [Instagram: link in bio] #EDVIAct #SupportTheEDVIAct

5. Amplify a partner or coalition post

- **LinkedIn / Facebook**
  - We're elevating this on behalf of our partners in the children's vision community. The EDVI Act would give states the resources to build coordinated systems of care so no child falls through the cracks between a failed screening and the treatment they need. Join us in supporting it: Advocacy.PreventBlindness.org

Post Mechanics

Campaign hashtags: Include #EDVIAct and #SupportTheEDVIAct on every post for consistency, so advocates and partners can find the campaign. Add one topical tag like #ChildrensVision if it fits. On LinkedIn, use few or no hashtags.

PB platform and handles:

- LinkedIn: **Prevent Blindness**
- Instagram:@**prevent_blindness**
- Instagram (advocacy): @**pb_advocacy**
- Facebook: **Prevent Blindness**
- TikTok: **prevent_blindness**

Links

- **Legislative Action Center**: https://advocacy.preventblindness.org/prevent-blindness-legislative-action-center/
- **EDVI Act Website:** PreventBlindness.org/edvi-act

Graphics

Use the EDVI graphics as your baseline sample. Swap in your own photo or a short video whenever you can, using the blank EDVI template so your post stays on brand. Download the graphics from the EDVI social media toolkit.



