

EDVI | Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children Act

EDVI Act Advocacy Toolkit: For Partner Organizations

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 organizations that want to learn about the EDVI Act and decide how they would like to engage. It includes information about endorsement, options for reaching your network, sample language and links to campaign resources.

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

Ways Your Organization Can Get Involved

Choose the actions that fit your organization's interests and capacity. Endorsing the EDVI Act does not require your organization to participate in every activity listed below.

Endorse the EDVI Act

Add your organization's name to the coalition supporting H.R. 2527. Endorsement signals that your organization supports the bill as written. It does not require your organization to participate in future advocacy activities.

Read What Organizations Need to Know and submit the endorsement form

Contact Your Representative

Ask the U.S. representative who serves your organization's community to co-sponsor the EDVI Act. Your organization can send a letter, request a meeting or do both.

- **Send a letter:** Customize the letter of support template with your organization's information and explain why the bill matters to the people you serve. Place the completed letter on your organization's letterhead, save it as a PDF and email it to the representative's office.
- **Request a meeting:** Visit the representative's official website and look for a page labeled "Request a Meeting," "Schedule a Meeting" or "Contact." Ask to meet in Washington, D.C., at a district office or virtually. The meeting may be with the representative or a staff member, and either is valuable. Use the talking points to guide the conversation and provide the one-page overview as a leave-behind.

Not sure who your representative is? Use the Prevent Blindness legislator directory to find the representative and their official website. If you need help identifying the appropriate staff contact or preparing for your outreach, contact Prevent Blindness.

Invite Your Network to Take Action

Use your organization's communications channels to explain why the EDVI Act matters and encourage people to contact Congress. If you have an advocacy platform, send an action alert to your members. You can also adapt the sample newsletter article or blog post and use the social media content included in this toolkit. Direct people to the Prevent Blindness Legislative Action Center so they can easily ask their representatives to support the bill.



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Endorsing the Early Detection of Vision Impairments (EDVI) for Children Act
What Organizations Need to Know

The Early Detection of Vision Impairments (EDVI) for Children Act is bipartisan legislation that is advancing in Congress. When passed, the bill will provide grant funding and technical support for states and communities to promote early detection and intervention of vision problems in children and improve eye health outcomes. Passing the EDVI Act will need partnership and effort from a broad coalition of stakeholders, which is why Prevent Blindness is calling on our partners to support these efforts by endorsing the EDVI Act.

What does it mean to endorse the EDVI Act, and why does it matter?

To endorse the EDVI Act is to show approval for the bill as written, signaling that your organization believes it will solve a problem for the people you serve. That signal carries weight. It tells Members of Congress, their staff, and the wider public that a trusted organization sees the bill as sound and worth passing. A visible community of endorsers raises the bill's profile, strengthens relationships across the coalition, and builds the momentum that helps advance the legislation.

What is expected of my organization when endorsing the EDVI Act?

Organizations that endorse the bill will receive regular updates on the bill's progress. Prevent Blindness provides as many opportunities as we can for organizations to engage in advocacy through a variety of ways (legislative, media, grassroots, etc.), and organizations are invited to participate in any way that reflects the organization's interest and capacity. Participating in these opportunities is not a requirement for providing your organization's endorsement of the EDVI Act.

We are a small 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Is this allowable?

In general, under existing IRS laws, an organization with a 501(c)(3) status is permitted to engage in activities that influence policy and legislation (a.k.a., lobbying) at federal, state, or local levels so long as the activity does not involve a "substantial part" of the organization's activities. We understand that this may impact some organizations' decisions to endorse the EDVI Act. By providing this information, Prevent Blindness is not providing advice, and each organization should consult their own advisors or attorneys.

How do I formally endorse the EDVI Act on behalf of my organization?

We invite organizations of all sizes and at all levels—national, state, local, or community— and all resource levels to formally endorse the bill by filling out the form at this link: Endorse the EDVI Act or email Sara Everett Brown. Filling out this form will allow us to better understand how your organization wishes to advocate for the EDVI Act as opportunities arise and provides us with a key contact to send regular updates on the bill's progress.

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How to use this template: Copy the letter below onto your organization's letterhead and replace the italicized items with your information. Delete this note before sending. For the most current bill text, visit congress.gov.

DATE

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marc Veasey U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bilirakis and Veasey:

On behalf of *ORGANIZATION NAME*, I write to express our strong support for **H.R. 2527, the Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children (EDVI) Act of 2025**. Thank you for your bipartisan leadership on this important legislation to establish a first-of-its-kind federal program dedicated to children's vision and eye health. We encourage you to work with your colleagues to pass this 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. More than 1 in 4 children in the United States has a vision problem that needs treatment. Yet, unlike hearing and oral health, **there is no federal program focused on children's vision**. As a result, access to eye care varies widely from state to state, and many children never get the follow-up care they need after a failed screening. Left untreated, childhood vision problems can hold children back in school and lead to permanent vision loss.

The EDVI Act is modeled on the bipartisan success of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program, which has sharply increased screening and follow-up care for infants with hearing loss since 1999. Like EHDI, the EDVI Act would give states and communities the resources to build coordinated systems of care for children's vision. It applies a model that already works.

[OPTIONAL: Add a few sentences about how the EDVI Act would benefit your organization or the people you serve.]

Along with 115+ organizations representing patients, providers, families, public health, schools, and community groups, *ORGANIZATION* is proud to support the EDVI Act. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact *CONTACT NAME, TITLE, EMAIL, AND/OR PHONE*.

Sincerely,
NAME OF ORGANIZATION CONTACT



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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

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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Sample Newsletter or Blog Copy

How to use this template: Copy the sample article below into your organization's newsletter, blog or website. Replace the bracketed items with your organization's information and adjust the wording to fit your audience. Feel free to add an example from your community or explain why the EDVI Act matters to the people you serve. Delete this note before publishing.

Help Build Stronger Systems for Children's Vision

[*ORGANIZATION NAME*] is proud to endorse the Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children (EDVI) Act (H.R. 2527). This bipartisan legislation is co-led by Congressional Vision Caucus Co-Chairs Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL-12) and Rep. Marc Veasey (D-TX-33).

[ADD ONE OR TWO SENTENCES ABOUT WHY YOUR ORGANIZATION ENDORSED THE EDVI ACT OR HOW CHILDREN'S VISION RELATES TO YOUR MISSION AND THE PEOPLE YOU SERVE.]

More than 1 in 4 children in the United States has a vision problem that needs treatment. Yet there is no federal program dedicated to helping states build coordinated systems for children's vision and eye health.

The EDVI Act would create the first federal public health program focused specifically on children's vision. Through grants and technical assistance, it would help states and communities strengthen early detection, referrals to eye care and follow-up. The goal is to make sure children with possible vision problems are identified and connected to appropriate care before an untreated condition affects their learning or leads to permanent vision loss.

The bill would also help early childhood professionals and health care providers use evidence-based screening and referral practices while supporting families as they navigate follow-up care.

[ORGANIZATION NAME] joins Prevent Blindness in asking the public to contact their U.S. representatives and urge them to co-sponsor the EDVI Act.

Ask your representative to support the EDVI Act.
Learn more about the EDVI Act.

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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**
  - At [ORGANIZATION NAME], we believe children's vision deserves greater attention. Yet there's no federal program dedicated to it. The EDVI Act would change that. Learn more through the link in our bio. #EDVIAct #ChildrensVision
- **Facebook**
  - At [ORGANIZATION NAME], we know healthy vision matters for children's learning. The EDVI Act, H.R. 2527, would create the first federal program focused specifically on children's vision and eye health. Learn more: [EDVI ACT LINK] #EDVIAct
- **LinkedIn**
  - [ORGANIZATION NAME] believes children's vision should be a public health priority. The EDVI Act would create the first federal program dedicated to children's vision and eye health. Learn more about the bill and how organizations can support it: [EDVI ACT LINK]

2. Share Your Organization's Endorsement

- **Instagram**
  - We're proud to endorse the EDVI Act, H.R. 2527. The bill would help states build stronger systems for early detection and follow-up eye care. Learn more through the link in our bio. #EDVIAct #SupportTheEDVIAct
- **Facebook**
  - [ORGANIZATION NAME] is proud to endorse the EDVI Act. This bipartisan bill would help states and communities connect more children with the eye care they need. Learn more: [EDVI ACT LINK] #EDVIAct
- **LinkedIn**
  - [ORGANIZATION NAME] is proud to endorse the EDVI Act, H.R. 2527. The bill would help states strengthen early detection, referrals to eye care and follow-up. We're pleased to join Prevent Blindness and other organizations supporting children's vision. [EDVI ACT LINK]
- **X**
  - We're proud to endorse the #EDVIAct, H.R. 2527. The bill would help states strengthen early detection and follow-up eye care for children. Learn more: [EDVI ACT LINK]

3. Explain Why Early Detection Matters

- **Instagram**
  - We know that early detection can change a child's future. Many childhood vision problems can be treated when caught early. The EDVI Act would help states connect more children with the eye care they need. #EDVIAct #ChildrensVision
- **Facebook**
  - The people we serve should not have to navigate a disconnected system to get a child appropriate eye care. We support the EDVI Act because it would help states strengthen the path from vision screening to treatment and follow-up. Learn more: [EDVI ACT LINK]

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**
  - This [OCCASION], we're highlighting the importance of children's vision. [ORGANIZATION NAME] supports the EDVI Act and its goal of helping states strengthen early detection and follow-up eye care. Learn more: [EDVI ACT LINK OR LINK IN BIO] #EDVIAct

5. Amplify a partner or coalition post

- **LinkedIn / Facebook**
  - We're sharing this from our partners in the children's vision community. The EDVI Act would help ensure that fewer children fall through the gaps between a failed screening and the eye care they need. Join us in supporting it: [EDVI ACT LINK]

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.







