

2017 Children's Vision Advocacy Day at the State House

**In support of
H3224/S1219**

An act to establish a children's vision
screening registry and special commission
on childhood vision and eye health



THE NEXT STEP **Comprehensive Children's Vision Health Program In Massachusetts**

- ✓ **Universal access to evidence based vision screening program**
- ✓ **Information System to assure vision screening; completed comprehensive eye exams; and ongoing eye care for all children**
- ✓ **Mandated reporting for surveillance, evaluation and resource allocation**

*A special welcome to students and faculty
from the Mario Umana Academy, East Boston*

ABOUT THE COALITION, NATIONAL CENTER, AND PREVENT BLINDNESS

Children's Vision Massachusetts is an 85 member coalition made up of parents, school nurses, pediatricians, family physicians, optometrists, ophthalmologists, educators, public health professionals and advocates from organizations across the Commonwealth committed to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to develop and maintain their best possible vision. To accomplish this, vision conditions such as amblyopia and significant refractive error must be detected early and treated. If all children are to receive the vision care they need to support growth and learning, the Coalition believes there must be a commitment to developing a comprehensive children's vision health program.

In 2009, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau awarded Prevent Blindness a grant to establish the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health. Five states were invited to join with the National Center to establish guidelines and recommendations designed to improve the vision health of children. Massachusetts was selected as a pilot state and the Prevent Blindness Northeast Regional Office convened a small group of volunteers to work on this project. The multidisciplinary coalition now has eighty five members and represents over thirty organizations and institutions from across the state.

Prevent Blindness is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, community and patient service programs and research. These services are made possible through the generous support of the American public. Together with a network of affiliates, divisions and chapters, Prevent Blindness is committed to eliminating preventable blindness in America.

PROGRAM

10am – 11am: Great Hall of Flags

Networking, Program Partners and Exhibits
Music by Bo Winiker

11am – Noon: Grand Staircase

Danielle Ledoux, MD	Specialized Pediatric Eye Care Beverly, Boston Children’s Hospital
Senator Stan Rosenberg	Massachusetts Senate President
Representative Christine Barber	Massachusetts House of Representatives
Lisa Levin	Elementary Educator, Umana Academy, East Boston
John Stamatopoulos	Parent Advocate, CVMA Member
Bruce Moore, OD	Recently retired as the Marcus Professor of Pediatric Studies at the New England College of Optometry

Noon – 1pm: Great Hall of Flags

Lunch and Legislative Briefing

Jean Ramsey, MD, MPH	Associate Professor, Ophthalmology & Pediatrics, Boston University School of Medicine
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1pm – 3pm: Legislative Visits

WHY a Comprehensive Children's Vision Health Program?

- ✓ **1 in 4 children** have a vision problem-over 250,000 children in Massachusetts need glasses to see the board or read a book
- ✓ There is a significant correlation between a child's vision and their **success in acquiring early literacy skills**
- ✓ Each year, **2,000 – 3,000 children will develop amblyopia**, a condition that **leads to permanent vision loss** if not detected and treated early in childhood
- ✓ There are **gaps in access, education, awareness and communication** in the current system of vision care
- ✓ Many children **start school without** the vision care that they need
- ✓ A child who has never experienced clear vision **does not know to report a problem seeing**

H3224/S.1219 to eliminate correctable vision impairment, prevent permanent vision loss, and support learning



Children's Vision Massachusetts Coalition Co-Chairs Bruce Moore, OD, Kathy Majzoub, MBA, and Jean Ramsey, MD, MPH, would like to thank today's speakers, partners, sponsors, attendees, and members of the Children's Vision Massachusetts Coalition for their ongoing commitment to the Coalition's mission of creating a systematic approach to children's vision care that assures every child has the opportunity to develop and maintain their best possible vision to support healthy development and academic growth.

Thank you to our Exhibitors:

ABCD Head Start

Ben Franklin Institute of Technology Opticianry Program

Boston Medical Center Department of Ophthalmology

City Connects

Massachusetts School Nurse Organization

Miraflex

National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health

New England College of Optometry Screening Program

New England College of Optometry Center for Eye Care

New England Eye Center at Tufts Medical Center

School Health

UMass Boston Vision Studies Program

Welch Allyn

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AWARENESS for CHILDREN'S VISION**

#kidsvision #Advocate4vision #CVMAadvocacyDay2017



Children's Vision
Massachusetts

Open Eyes. Open Doors.

<https://childrensvision.preventblindness.org>

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