



## 2017 Children's Vision Advocacy Day at the State House---TALKING POINTS

### WE NEED HELP FROM THE LEGISLATURE

To eliminate correctable vision impairment, prevent permanent vision loss, and support learning

### SUPPORT H.3224/S.1219,

Establish **children's vision screening registry & special commission childhood vision & eye health**  
(Currently assigned to Public Health Committee; Hearing 10/17/17)

### THE NEXT STEP

To a statewide comprehensive **Children's Vision Health Program**

### WHICH INCLUDES

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

### BECAUSE

**Over 250,000 in Massachusetts** need glasses to see the board or read a book AND each year **2,000- 3,000 children will develop amblyopia, which leads to permanent vision loss** if not treated early in childhood AND NIH funded research (2016) reports a significant correlation between a **child's vision and success in early literacy** AND most vision problems respond to treatment but **early detection is critical**

### AND WE KNOW

There are **significant gaps in access, education, awareness, communication** in MA's system of vision care AND

A child who has never experienced clear sight **does not know what normal vision is**

### SCREENING IS THE FIRST STEP

Massachusetts has a legislated vision screening school entry requirement

### H3224/S1219 IS THE NEXT STEP

To a statewide comprehensive Children's Vision Health Program

### THANK YOU,

### CHILDREN'S VISION MASSACHUSETTS

Parents, health care providers and educators committed to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to develop and maintain their best possible vision