

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 226

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a Children's Vision Awareness Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 2001

Mr. MATSUI (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. REYES) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a Children's Vision Awareness Day.

Whereas the National Society to Prevent Blindness concluded in a 1990 report that in the United States vision disorders are the fourth most common disability and the most prevalent handicapping condition in childhood;

Whereas according to the United States Center for Health Statistics, only about 14 percent of children in the United States under the age of 6 receive an eye exam;

Whereas according to the Saratoga Vision Center, 1 of every 6 children in the United States is 2 or more grade levels

behind in reading, and 80 percent of these children have difficulty in eye control and coordination;

Whereas according to a 1999 study by Helen Keller International, 25 percent of junior high school age children in the United States cannot read a blackboard because of near-sightedness;

Whereas untreated eye problems can affect learning ability, personality, adjustment in school, athletic ability, and self-esteem;

Whereas parents and teachers may have difficulty recognizing some vision problems of children;

Whereas there is a national focus on education, but the essential role of good vision in education is often forgotten;

Whereas Vision Service Plan and America's Promise have a Sight for Students Program to help low-income, uninsured children obtain eye exams and glasses;

Whereas Vision Service Plan, Prevent Blindness America, Head Start, and other community benefit programs with an emphasis on vision will conduct eye screenings at the Capitol and at State capitols across the Nation on September 26, 2001; and

Whereas the establishment of a Children's Vision Awareness Day on September 26, 2001, would recognize the importance of early childhood vision care: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a Children's
- 2 3 Vision Awareness Day.

