

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6066

To establish a grant program to provide vision care to children, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

Mr. PASCRELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To establish a grant program to provide vision care to children, and for other purposes.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        This Act may be cited as the “Vision Care for Kids  
5 Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        Congress makes the following findings:

8            (1) Good vision is essential for proper physical  
9        development and educational progress in growing  
10       children.

1           (2) Many serious ocular conditions are treatable  
2 if identified in the preschool and early school-aged  
3 years.

4           (3) Early detection of ocular conditions provides  
5 the best opportunity for effective, inexpensive treat-  
6 ment and can have far-reaching implications for vi-  
7 sion.

8           (4) Various identification methods, whether vi-  
9 sion screening or comprehensive eye exams required  
10 by State laws, will identify children needing services.  
11 A child identified through vision screening should re-  
12 ceive a comprehensive eye exam followed by subse-  
13 quent treatment as needed. A child identified  
14 through a comprehensive eye exam should receive  
15 subsequent treatment as needed. All children identi-  
16 fied as needing services should have access to subse-  
17 quent treatment as needed.

18 **SEC. 3. GRANTS REGARDING VISION CARE FOR CHILDREN.**

19           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
20 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-  
21 retary”), acting through the Director of the Centers for  
22 Disease Control and Prevention, may award grants to  
23 States on the basis of an established review process for  
24 the purpose of complementing existing State efforts for—

1           (1) providing comprehensive eye examinations  
2           by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist for chil-  
3           dren who have been previously identified through a  
4           vision screening or eye examination by a licensed  
5           health care provider or vision screener as needing  
6           such services, with priority given to children who are  
7           under the age of 9 years;

8           (2) providing treatment or services, subsequent  
9           to the examinations described in paragraph (1), nec-  
10          essary to correct vision problems; and

11          (3) developing and disseminating, to parents,  
12          teachers, and health care practitioners, educational  
13          materials on recognizing signs of visual impairment  
14          in children.

15          (b) CRITERIA AND COORDINATION.—

16           (1) CRITERIA.—The Secretary, in consultation  
17           with appropriate professional and consumer organi-  
18           zations including individuals with knowledge of age  
19           appropriate vision services, shall develop criteria—

20           (A) governing the operation of the grant  
21           program under subsection (a); and

22           (B) for the collection of data related to vi-  
23           sion assessment and the utilization of follow up  
24           services.

1           (2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall, as  
2           appropriate, coordinate the program under sub-  
3           section (a) with the program under section 330 of  
4           the Public Health Service Act (relating to health  
5           centers) (42 U.S.C. 254b), the program under title  
6           XIX of the Social Security Act (relating to the Med-  
7           icaid program) (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), the pro-  
8           gram under title XXI of such Act (relating to the  
9           State children’s health insurance program) (42  
10          U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.), and with other Federal or  
11          State programs that provide services to children.

12          (c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
13          under subsection (a), a State shall submit to the Secretary  
14          an application in such form, made in such manner, and  
15          containing such information as the Secretary may require,  
16          including—

17                (1) information on existing Federal, Federal-  
18                State, or State-funded children’s vision programs;

19                (2) a plan for the use of grant funds, including  
20                how funds will be used to complement existing State  
21                efforts (including possible partnerships with non-  
22                profit entities);

23                (3) a plan to determine if a grant eligible child  
24                has been identified as provided for in section 3(a);  
25                and

1           (4) a description of how funds will be used to  
2           provide items or services only as a secondary payer  
3           to—

4                   (A) any State compensation program,  
5                   under an insurance policy, or under any Fed-  
6                   eral or State health benefits program; or

7                   (B) by any entity that provides health  
8                   services on a prepaid basis.

9           (d) EVALUATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
10          under subsection (a), a State shall agree that, not later  
11          than 1 year after the date on which amounts under the  
12          grant are first received by the State, and annually there-  
13          after while receiving amounts under the grant, the State  
14          will submit to the Secretary an evaluation of the oper-  
15          ations and activities carried out under the grant, includ-  
16          ing—

17                   (1) an assessment of the utilization of vision  
18                   services and the status of children receiving these  
19                   services as a result of the activities carried out  
20                   under the grant;

21                   (2) the collection, analysis, and reporting of  
22                   children’s vision data according to guidelines pre-  
23                   scribed by the Secretary; and

24                   (3) such other information as the Secretary  
25                   may require.

1           (e) LIMITATIONS IN EXPENDITURE OF GRANT.—A  
2 grant may be made under subsection (a) only if the State  
3 involved agrees that the State will not expend more than  
4 20 percent of the amount received under the grant to  
5 carry out the purpose described in paragraph (3) of such  
6 subsection.

7           (f) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the  
8 term “comprehensive eye examination” includes an assess-  
9 ment of a patient’s history, general medical observation,  
10 external and ophthalmoscopic examination, visual acuity,  
11 ocular alignment and motility, refraction, and as appro-  
12 priate, binocular vision or gross visual fields, performed  
13 by an optometrist or an ophthalmologist.

14           (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the  
15 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized  
16 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for  
17 each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010.

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