



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF VISION CARE PLANS

April 24, 2017

Assembly Member Patrick O'Donnell  
Assembly Committee on Education  
Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 159  
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: National Association of Vision Care Plans Support for A.B. 1110

Dear Chairman O'Donnell:

I am writing to express the National Association of Vision Care Plans' (NAVCP) support for A.B. 1110 sponsored by Assemblywoman Autumn Burke. NAVCP represents 19 of the nation's largest managed vision care companies that work to promote the importance of vision care and provide coverage to over 23 million Californians. Eye care professionals and major vision benefits companies agree that every child starting school should have a comprehensive eye exam followed by regular vision assessments.

Twenty-five percent of children have correctable vision issues known to interfere with learning. By increasing access to comprehensive eye exams, A.B. 1110 removes barriers to academic performance for millions of Californian children. In addition, to requiring eye exams and assessments at the right stages of childhood development, A.B. 1110 creates consistent standards for these critical eye health check points.

A.B. 1110 enumerates the key elements vision experts agree comprise a comprehensive pediatric eye exam. Section 49455 (a) cites "monocular distance and binocular near visual acuity, binocular vision skills, including eye teaming and convergence, accommodation, and depth perception, color vision, pupil evaluation, measurement of refractive error, and eye health evaluations." Major vision benefit companies include these tests and evaluations conducted during pediatric eye exams in standard benefit packages because we know how important it is to identify vision issues early in a child's formal education.

In addition, Section 49455 (c) ensures vision appraisals for grades 2, 5 and 8 "include tests for visual acuity, including near vision and color vision. However, color vision shall be appraised once and only on male pupils, and the results of the appraisal shall be entered in the health record of the pupil." Again, these requirements align with vision expert recommendations for school-based screenings.

As quality vision care is becoming increasingly accessible and affordable; it is important that we take the next step and ensure that children have consistent comprehensive eye exams and

NAVCP Comments in support of A.B. 1110

April 24, 2017

Page 2 of 2

vision assessments. NAVCP and its members support this legislation and stand ready to answer any questions you may have about pediatric eye care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Roberts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "R".

Julian Roberts

Executive Director

National Association of Vision Care Plans

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