

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 731

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a five-year schedule to double, relative to fiscal year 1999, the amount appropriated for the National Eye Institute.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

---

## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a five-year schedule to double, relative to fiscal year 1999, the amount appropriated for the National Eye Institute.

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 “National Eye Institute  
5       Authorization Act of 1999”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that—

1           (1) 80,000,000 Americans are at risk of devel-  
2           oping diseases that potentially can cause blindness;

3           (2) 12,000,000 Americans have some degree of  
4           uncorrected visual impairment;

5           (3) 1,100,000 Americans are legally blind;

6           (4) the annual direct and indirect cost of health  
7           care in the United States for eye and vision dis-  
8           orders is \$42,000,000,000;

9           (5) age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is  
10          the leading cause of blindness in individuals over age  
11          65;

12          (6) of the 34,000,000 Americans over age 65,  
13          1,700,000 have visual impairment that resulted from  
14          AMD;

15          (7) AMD is expected to become an even greater  
16          public health problem as the number of Americans  
17          over age 65 increases dramatically over the next 30  
18          years;

19          (8) diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of  
20          blindness among individuals in the age group 20 to  
21          74, accounting for 24,000 new cases of blindness  
22          each year;

23          (9) glaucoma, another leading cause of blind-  
24          ness, has caused 120,000 individuals in the United  
25          States to become blind;

1           (10) it is estimated that, of individuals in the  
 2       United States with glaucoma, only about 50 percent  
 3       are aware that they have the disease;

4           (11) more than 6,000,000 Americans suffer  
 5       from retinal degenerative diseases such as retinitis  
 6       pigmentosa, macular degeneration, Usher syndrome,  
 7       and Stargardt disease; and

8           (12) retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration,  
 9       Usher syndrome and Stargardt disease are inherited  
 10      diseases, and the number of individuals who suffer  
 11      from these diseases will increase dramatically.

12 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR NA-**  
 13 **TIONAL EYE INSTITUTE; FIVE-YEAR SCHED-**  
 14 **ULE FOR DOUBLING OF APPROPRIATIONS**  
 15 **RELATIVE TO FISCAL YEAR 1999.**

16       Subpart 9 of part C of title IV of the Public Health  
 17      Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285i et seq.) is amended by adding  
 18      at the end the following section:

19           “AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS  
 20       “SEC. 456A. For the purpose of carrying out this  
 21      subpart, there are authorized to be appropriated  
 22      \$395,857,000 for fiscal year 1999, \$474,857,000 for fis-  
 23      cal year 2000, \$553,857,000 for fiscal year 2001,  
 24      \$632,857,000 for fiscal year 2002, \$711,857,000 for fis-  
 25      cal year 2003, and \$791,714,000 for fiscal year 2004.”.