

107TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5648

To establish a grant program to provide comprehensive eye examinations to children, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 16, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To establish a grant program to provide comprehensive eye examinations 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 “Children’s Vision Im-  
5       provement and Learning Readiness Act of 2002”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds as follows:

8           (1) Eighty percent of what children learn is ac-  
9       quired through the visual processing of information.

17 SEC. 3. GRANTS REGARDING COMPREHENSIVE EYE EXAMI-  
18 NATIONS FOR CHILDREN.

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
20 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-  
21 retary”) may make grants to States for the purpose of—

22 (1) providing comprehensive eye examinations  
23 for children, with priority given to school-based pro-  
24 grams for children who are under the age of nine;  
25 and

5 (b) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall, as appro-  
6 priate, coordinate the program under subsection (a) with  
7 the program under section 330 of the Public Health Serv-  
8 ice Act (relating to health centers), the program under  
9 title XIX of the Social Security Act (relating to the Med-  
10 icaid program), the program under title XXI of such Act  
11 (relating to the State children's health insurance pro-  
12 gram), and with other Federal or State programs that  
13 provide services to children.

14 (c) RELATIONSHIP TO PAYMENTS UNDER OTHER  
15 PROGRAMS.—A grant may be made under subsection (a)  
16 only if the State involved agrees that the State will not  
17 make payments from the grant for any item or service to  
18 the extent that payment has been made, or can reasonably  
19 be expected to be made, with respect to such item or  
20 service—

1       (d) EVALUATIONS.—A grant may be made under  
2 subsection (a) only if the State involved agrees that, not  
3 later than one year after the date on which amounts under  
4 the grant are first received by the State, and annually  
5 thereafter while receiving amounts under the grant, the  
6 State will submit to the Secretary an evaluation of the  
7 operations and activities carried out under the grant,  
8 including—

9               (1) a description of the health status outcomes  
10          of children provided with assistance under the grant;

11               (2) an assessment of the utilization of comprehensive eye examination services as a result of  
12          the activities carried out under the grant;

14               (3) the collection, analysis, and reporting of comprehensive eye examination data according to  
15          guidelines prescribed by the Director of the Centers  
16          for Disease Control and Prevention; and

18               (4) such other information as the Secretary  
19          may require.

20       (e) APPLICATION.—A grant may be made under sub-  
21 section (a) only if an application for the grant is submitted  
22 to the Secretary and the application is in such form, is  
23 made in such manner, and contains such information as  
24 the Secretary may require, including a plan for the use  
25 of the grant.

1        (f) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the  
2 term “comprehensive eye examination” includes an assess-  
3 ment of a patient’s history, general medical observation,  
4 external and ophthalmoscopic examination, and assess-  
5 ment of gross visual fields performed by an optometrist  
6 or an ophthalmologist.

7        (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the  
8 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized  
9 to be appropriated \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2003, and  
10 such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years  
11 2004 through 2006.

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