



May 28, 2019

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Office of the Governor
State House
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: A4310/S2804 - Requires young children entering public schools or Head Start Programs for first time to have comprehensive eye examination completed

Honorable Governor Murphy,

On behalf of the [Vision Impact Institute](#) and the [Kids See: Success Initiative](#), I write to respectfully ask for your support for **Bill A4310/S2804** to be signed into law. This bill addresses numerous concerns that could lead to long-term physical health issues such as vision loss, emotional and social development in children.

The Vision Impact Institute is a global non-profit organization that raises awareness about the importance of vision correction and protection to make good vision a global priority. Evidence shows that more than 10 million children in the U.S. suffer from vision problems that may contribute to poor academic performance. Experts agree that up to 80% of learning occurs through the eyes, yet many parents unknowingly put their children at risk by not providing them with a comprehensive eye exam before entering school.

Furthermore, eye health plays a major role in academics and it is common for children with a vision problem to go undetected and eye disorders be mistaken for a learning disability. According to the American Optometric Association, undiagnosed and uncorrected eye and vision problem in children are a significant public health concern, and the recommended vision screenings may result in late detection of vision disorders. Even more, today there is a great increase in the prevalence of myopia putting children at higher risks in the future. It is therefore, that the Vision Impact Institute advocates for comprehensive eye exams for children before entering public schools or Head Start Programs and urges you to sign this bill (**A4310/S2804**) to give the state's children an opportunity for success in the classroom and beyond.

We hope we can count on your leadership to ensuring the well-being of the children of New Jersey by enacting legislation.

Please note that I remain available to provide any other information that you may need and stand ready to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

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