

NAEVR Submits Written Testimony to March 9 House Hearing

On March 9, NAEVR submitted written testimony requesting FY2006 NIH and NEI funding at \$30 billion and \$711 million, respectively—for each, an increase of 6 percent over FY2005. NAEVR supported the NEI request with the following main points:

- Eye and vision research responds to the nation's top public health challenges of an aging population, chronic diseases, health disparities, emerging disease and bio-defense.
- The eye is a unique biological system in which to conduct genetic, neuroscience and cellular mechanism research.
- Vision impairment and eye disease is a major public health problem that disproportionately affects the aging and minority populations.
- The annual cost of vision impairment and blindness to the U.S. is \$68 billion; adequately funding NEI is cost-effective, as it can delay, save and prevent expenditures to the Medicare and Medicaid programs.
- Past NEI-funded research has resulted in treatments and therapies to slow the progression of vision loss and to restore vision.

Full text of the testimony is available on www.eyersearch.org