



NATIONAL
ALLIANCE
for EYE and
VISION
RESEARCH

National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research Talking Points

Advanced Medical Optics
Alcon Laboratories, Inc.
Allergan, Inc
American Academy
of Ophthalmology
American Academy
of Optometry
American Optometric
Association
Association for Research in
Vision and Ophthalmology
Association of University
Professors of Ophthalmology
Bausch & Lomb
Foundation Fighting
Blindness
Novartis
Pfizer Inc
Vistakon, Johnson & Johnson
Vision Care, Inc.

Association of Schools
and Colleges of Optometry
Eli Lilly and Company
Eyeteck Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
ISTA Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Santen, Inc.
Second Sight

American Association of
Ophthalmic Pathologists
American Association for
Pediatric Ophthalmology
and Strabismus
American Glaucoma Society
American Ophthalmological
Society
American Society of Cataract
and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Retina Specialists
American Uveitis Society
AMD Alliance International
Eye Bank Association
of America
Fight for Sight
Glaucoma Research Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Research
Foundation International
Lighthouse International
Lions International
National Vision Rehabilitation Association
Ocular Microbiology and
Immunology Group
Prevent Blindness America
Prevention of Blindness
Society of Metropolitan
Washington
PXE International
Research To Prevent Blindness
The Cornea Society
The Glaucoma Foundation
The Macula Society
The Retina Society
Vision Share,
The Consortium of Eye Banks
Women in Ophthalmology
Women's Eye Health Task Force

NIH Reauthorization Legislation

NAEVR commends the Energy and Commerce Committee for its leadership in examining ways to modernize NIH management to most effectively and efficiently use federal research dollars. In that regard:

NAEVR supports changes that increase NIH transparency (e.g., formalizing the Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives and improving health information technology/data collection/metrics).

NAEVR supports changes that provide the NIH Director greater authority over discretionary funds for activities that engage Institutes in an inter-disciplinary and collaborative manner.

NAEVR opposes the elimination of line item budgets for mission-specific Institutes. NAEVR believes that Congress should review Institute budget allocations in a process that engages both the House and Senate and both the majority and minority members, before final determinations are made. This provides an important “check and balance” to the extensively-revised internal NIH process set forth in the Draft.

NAEVR opposes an increase to the NIH Director transfer authority, including changes to the current one percent cap and the approval process. As the IOM report noted, increasing the Director’s transfer authority could jeopardize an Institute’s ability to make multi-year commitments in its research portfolio. We are also concerned about the role of the NIH Director’s Advisory Council in this process, as the Draft language implies an “approval” rather than an “advisory opinion” in this process.

To obviate these concerns, NAEVR recommends that, instead of increasing transfer authority above the current one percent cap, the new Division of Program Coordination, Planning and Strategic Initiatives within the Office of the Director is adequately funded (especially with any NIH budget increases) to support the important trans-Institute collaborative projects.

The National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR) is a 50-member organization representing the breadth of the community of support for eye and vision research, including professional societies (both ophthalmic and optometric), consumer organizations and industry.