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## **House Passes Legislation Recognizing the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Eye Institute and the Designation of the “Decade of Vision”**

**Washington, DC** – Congressman Pete Sessions today commended the passage of H.Res. 366 – a bill recognizing the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Eye Institute (NEI) and expressing support for designation of 2010 through 2020 as the “Decade of Vision.” The legislation passed unopposed in the House by a vote of 411-0.

“I am pleased that my colleagues have joined me today in unanimously enacting this significant legislation,” Sessions stated. “The NEI has been a leader in research and sight-saving treatments that reduce visual impairment and blindness for over 40 years. With Congressional and public support, our national investment in vision research will continue to yield substantial treatments and cures for Americans affected by vision loss and impairment.”

Sessions, an original sponsor of H.Res. 366 and the Republican lead for this legislation, is a long-time supporter of the treatment and prevention of eye disease. It is estimated that vision impairment currently costs the nation \$68 billion annually, with over 38 million Americans over the age of 40 affected. Sessions has a long and positive history of working with the NEI and several of its grantees to ensure the future of America's vision health.

“NEI research has led to sight-saving treatments and improved quality of life for so many people in our nation. I am proud of what the National Eye Institute has accomplished today, and I look forward to what it will be able to accomplish during the Decade of Vision,” Sessions said.

The National Eye Institute was established by Congress in 1968. The NEI has contributed to over 1600 grants and training awards made to scientists at more than 250 medical centers, hospitals, and universities. To read more about what NEI is doing, please visit their website:

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/index.asp>