



NAEVR
National Alliance For
Eye And Vision Research

Serving as Friends of the National Eye Institute

Eye and Vision Breakthroughs: Keep the Research Drive Alive!

By Hand Delivery -- September 17, 2007

The Honorable John Boozman, U.S. House of Representatives
1519 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC. 20515

Dear Congressman Boozman:

On behalf of the community of support for eye and vision research, the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR) wishes to express its support for the *Military Eye Trauma Treatment Act of 2007* and the creation of a Department of Defense (DOD) *Military Eye Trauma Registry*.

NAEVR commends you for your leadership on this legislation, which would create the *Military Eye Injury Registry* to fully account for combat-related injuries. Concomitantly, the *Center of Excellence* represents a comprehensive approach to the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of eye injuries and trauma. In that regard, we are especially pleased that the legislative language specifically refers to "research" in so many sections with respect to the development of best practices and clinical education.

NAEVR is also pleased that the legislation specifically directs the DOD and the Department of Veterans Affairs to coordinate on all aspects of visual dysfunction related to Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), including screening, diagnosis, rehabilitative management, and research.

As NAEVR has stated in its annual justification for eye and vision research's eligibility for DOD funding within the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP), a soldier's vision is the most critical for optimal performance, whether engaged in combat or support functions. Vision is also the sense most vulnerable to acute injury, and the extent of immediate treatment can affect the soldier for a lifetime due to vision impairment or chronic eye disease. These have a significant impact—immediate and long-term—in relation to physical and emotional health, productivity, and quality of life for the remainder of military service and into civilian life.

On behalf of the 55 professional (including ophthalmology and optometry), patient, and industry organizations involved in eye and vision research, NAEVR appreciates your commitment to establish the *Military Eye Trauma Treatment Act of 2007* and for supporting TBI vision dysfunction research.

Sincerely,

James F. Jorkasky
Executive Director

- 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
- Novartis
- Pfizer Inc
- Vistakon, Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc.
- Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
- Foundation Fighting Blindness
- Genentech, Inc.
- Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- ISTA Pharmaceuticals
- Santen, Inc.
- Second Sight
- American Association of Ophthalmic Pathologists
- American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
- American Diabetes Association
- American Glaucoma Society
- American Ophthalmological Society
- American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
- American Society of Retina Specialists
- American Uveitis Society
- AMD Alliance International
- Association of Vision Science Librarians
- Blinded Veterans Association
- Discovery Eye Foundation
- Eye Bank Association of America
- EyeSight Foundation of Alabama
- Fight For Sight
- Glaucoma Research Foundation
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International
- Lighthouse International
- Lions International
- Macular Degeneration Partnership
- Ocular Microbiology and Immunology Group
- Prevent Blindness America
- Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington
- Research To Prevent Blindness
- Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation
- Tear Film & Ocular Surface Society
- The Cornea Society
- The Glaucoma Foundation
- The Macula Society
- The Retina Society
- Vision Council of America
- Vision Share, The Consortium of Eye Banks
- Women In Ophthalmology
- Women's Eye Health Task Force