



NATIONAL  
ALLIANCE  
for EYE and  
VISION  
RESEARCH

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**Eye and Vision Breakthroughs:  
Keep the Research Drive Alive!**

July 12, 2006

The Honorable William H. Frist, M.D.  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Senate Hart 509  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Dr. Frist:

On behalf of the community of support for eye and vision research, I commend you for your courage and tenacity in bringing HR 810, *The Stem Cell Enhancement Act of 2005*, to the Senate floor for a vote early next week.

NAEVR has sent letters to all Senators urging their support of HR 810, which represents the only pro-patient, pro-cure, pro-research bill of those that will be debated. NAEVR has also coordinated thousands of email letters being sent to Senate offices from vision researchers around the country in support of HR 810.

We appreciate your understanding of the promise that stem cell research holds for the more than 100 million Americans suffering from debilitating diseases and disorders, such as cancer, Alzheimer's, spinal cord injuries and diabetes, which results in sight-impairing diabetic retinopathy. Stem cell research holds the promise to result in treatments for other eye diseases, such as macular degeneration, glaucoma and retinitis pigmentosa.

The vision community thanks you for your personal commitment to medical research that will save and improve the lives of millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Ryan, M.D.  
President, NAEVR Board of Directors  
[sryan@doheny.org](mailto:sryan@doheny.org)

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and Colleges of Optometry  
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and Refractive Surgery  
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Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society  
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