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# Contributor Report



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## Briefing Builds Awareness of Vision Issues for Senior Drivers

On March 23, the Congressional Vision Caucus, in conjunction with Prevent Blindness America (PBA) and the American Automobile Association (AAA), held a Capitol Hill Briefing entitled *Better Vision, Safer Roads*. Dr. Cynthia Owsley (University of Alabama at Birmingham) spoke about her NEI-funded research to determine which aspects of vision impairment affect crash risk and to identify interventions to reduce this elevated risk. Dr. Bella Dinh-Zarr, AAA's National Director of Traffic Safety Policy, spoke about AAA's priority initiative *Lifelong Safe Mobility*, which promotes transportation safety and mobility for an aging population.

Dr. Owsley commented that, "I am very concerned about future NEI funding. With the proposed cut to the NEI budget, future funding for quality of life vision research may be jeopardized. This is unfortunate, as safe senior driving is a public safety issue growing ever larger due to the aging of the population". Dr. Owsley's work was featured in NAEVR's December 2005 *Special Report to the White House Conference on Aging* on the value of NEI-funded research, available at [www.eyereseach.org](http://www.eyereseach.org).