



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
Eli Lilly and Company
Foundation Fighting
Blindness
Novartis
Pfizer Inc
Vistakon, Johnson & Johnson
Vision Care, Inc.

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

September 26, 2006

<SAMPLE LETTER>
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman:

On behalf of the community of support for eye and vision research, NAEVR urges you to sign onto the letter from Cong. Mike Castle to Majority Leader Boehner requesting that the House follow through on its commitment to add a full \$7 billion to Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) appropriations.

As you know, an additional \$4 billion has already been added to the bill by shifting dollars from the Defense and Foreign Operations accounts. However, none of this additional funding has gone to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which is slated to be flat-funded.

By following through on its commitment to provide the remaining \$3 billion, Congress could increase FY2007 NIH funding by \$1 billion, or about five percent, which has been requested by the medical research advocacy community. This increase is necessary to balance the 3.8 percent biomedical inflation rate and maintain the momentum of discovery.

Without an overall FY2007 NIH increase, individual Institutes will experience a budget cut. The National Eye Institute (NEI) is currently slated for a 0.8 percent cut, which translates to \$5.3 million. With 60 million baby boomers at risk of developing age-related eye diseases, now is NOT the time to be cutting the budget for vision research.

I hope that you can support Cong. Castle with his efforts, and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



James F. Jorkasky
Executive Director

Association of Schools
and Colleges of Optometry
Genentech, Inc.
GenVec, Inc.
Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
ISTA Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
(OSI) Eyetech, Inc.
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
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
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
Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation
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