

Join the

Kid's Eyes Count Campaign

June 7, 2007

The Honorable Governor Rod R. Blagojevich
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: Senate Bill 641—Required Vision Exam

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

My name is Janet Hughes and I'm the parent behind Senate Bill 805 which I'm proud you signed into law as Public Act 93-0504 in 2003. Senate Bill 805 was initiated after an eye examination diagnosed a significant vision problem undetected during my daughter Amy's vision screenings. This prompted my advocacy to inform others that vision screening is *not a substitute* for an eye examination in order to raise the standards of eye care.

Did you know that twenty years ago Governor Thompson signed the Vision Examination Bill into Illinois law recommending schools require vision examinations by an eye doctor with the health examinations for all children entering kindergarten, fifth and ninth grades? I was shocked to learn that hundreds of schools in Illinois disregarded this recommended requirement because it wasn't a "state mandate."

Recognizing a great need for education, I prepared a resolution in 2004, "Required Vision Examination Before Entering Kindergarten" and at the 104th annual convention, Illinois PTA adopted the resolution. The Illinois Federation of Teachers adopted the same resolution the following year. It was this resolution that led the teacher's union to initiate Senate Bill 641.

I'm also proud to inform you of our new non-profit organization for children's vision called, "Vision First Foundation." We at Vision First created the "Kid's Eyes Count Campaign" to support the implementation of "Amy's Law" (PA 93-0504) and any eye examination requirement. Our goal for all the schools throughout Illinois and the nation is to join our campaign.

We at Vision First Foundation are proud of our combined efforts made by the Illinois Federation of Teachers, Illinois PTA, and the Illinois Optometric Association. On behalf of the visual welfare for all the children of Illinois, we urge you to sign Senate Bill 641 into law.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet V. Hughes, President
Vision First Foundation
P.O. Box 412
Lemont, IL 60439
630.772.7684



Make a difference in the eyes of a child