

North Dakota Optometric Association Resolution
Adopted at the 2007 NDOA Annual Congress ~ October 12, 2007

IMPORTANCE OF COMPREHENSIVE EYE AND VISION EXAMINATIONS

- WHEREAS, It is estimated that one-in-four school-aged children have a vision problem; and
- WHEREAS, Undiagnosed and untreated vision impairments during the important formative years of a child's development can interfere with learning and contributes to poor performance in school; and
- WHEREAS, Vision screenings are limited, cannot provide a diagnosis nor prescribe treatment, and can only identify *possible* vision problems, thus leaving the children *not* identified at risk with undetected and untreated eye or vision problems; and
- WHEREAS, Eye and vision problems—including amblyopia, a loss of vision which develops after constant suppression of vision of one eye and usually needs to be diagnosed by the age of 6 years in order to prevent the leading cause of monocular blindness in children and young adults, are best detected and treated early; and
- WHEREAS, Vision screening is *not a substitute* for a complete eye and vision evaluation by an eye doctor; and
- WHEREAS, A complete eye and vision evaluation includes eye health, visual acuity, and visual efficiency; and
- WHEREAS, Knowledge regarding the critical importance of an examination by an eye doctor, to ensure healthy eyes and good vision skills *as a child's best school supply*, is not widely held by parents, teachers, administrators, nor the public at large; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the ND Optometric Association support the mission of the non-profit charitable and education organization Vision First Foundation to raise the standards of eye care for our children's visual welfare so no child will experience school with an undetected and untreated eye or vision problem; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the ND Optometric Association recognize the "Kid's Eyes Count Campaign" by Vision First Foundation as a valuable and approved program of education for parents, schools, and the public at large emphasizing vision screening is *not a substitute* for an eye examination and that comprehensive eye and vision examinations are important for all children first entering school and throughout their school-aged years to ensure healthy eyes and good vision skills essential for success in school; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the ND Optometric Association will make every attempt to make available functional vision and learning related care as part of the CE Requirements for each renewal period; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the ND Optometric Association supports bringing this resolution to the American Optometric Association for presentation at their 2008 convention.