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Prevent Blindness to Hold Sixteenth Annual “Eyes on Capitol Hill” Advocacy Event

***- Annual Event Allows Constituents to Meet with Policymakers to Help
Promote Vision and Eye Health Programs and Funding -***

CHICAGO (Feb. 10, 2021) – [Prevent Blindness](#), the nation’s oldest non-profit eye health organization, will be holding its sixteenth annual [“Eyes on Capitol Hill”](#) advocacy event, held virtually this year, on Wed., Feb. 24 and Thurs., Feb. 25, 2021. The program brings together patients, caregivers, public health workers, and medical professionals with their elected officials to educate lawmakers and their staff on vision issues, including equitable access to quality eyecare, health disparities in the prevalence of vision disorders, and the importance of sight-saving research and surveillance.

The event also provides an important opportunity to reach out to newly elected members of Congress to introduce them to critical vision advocacy initiatives. As learned during the Coronavirus pandemic, many of the circumstances that surround vision loss and eye disease—such as age, presence of chronic disease, and health disparities—intersect with COVID-19 and its most serious consequences, underscoring the need for advocacy to ensure that public policy accounts for those who live with blinding eye diseases.

In addition to sharing their personal stories of the importance of healthy vision, this year’s Eyes on Capitol Hill advocates will ask elected officials to:

- Increase the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Vision Health Initiative](#) to \$5 million for vision and eye health surveillance.
- Maintain the CDC’s work in glaucoma prevention and awareness with \$4 million.
- Join the bipartisan, bicameral [Congressional Vision Caucus](#) and champion vision and eye health policies in the 117th Congress.

“From its founding in 1908, Prevent Blindness has continued to be, at its core, a public health advocacy organization,” said Jeff Todd, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness.

“By working to give those who are directly affected by vision issues the opportunity to educate our government representatives directly on the importance of eye health, the Eyes on Capitol Hill event continues to carry on that mission.”

For more information on Eyes on Capitol Hill, or Prevent Blindness and its advocacy initiatives, please call (800) 331-2020 or visit <https://preventblindness.org/advocacy-initiatives/>.

About Prevent Blindness

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening and training, community and patient service programs and research. These services are made possible through the generous support of the American public. Together with a network of affiliates, Prevent Blindness is committed to eliminating preventable blindness in America. For more information, visit us at preventblindness.org, and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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