

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 746

By Todd

A RESOLUTION designating April 1-7, 2012, as "InfantSEE Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the sense of sight is one of our most precious gifts, and the most critical stages of vision development occur in the first year of a child's life; and

WHEREAS, undetected eye and vision problems can lead to permanent vision impairment or loss of life; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in six children is at risk from undiagnosed eye and vision problems; and

WHEREAS, one in thirty children will be affected by amblyopia, a leading cause of vision loss in people younger than forty-five years of age; and

WHEREAS, one in 25,000 children have retinoblastoma (intraocular cancer), the seventh most common pediatric cancer; and

WHEREAS, undetected vision problems can contribute to a decrease in a child's quality of life and may lead to developmental and behavioral difficulties which impede classroom learning, as well as increase the costs to society; and

WHEREAS, early detection of vision problems is the best way to treat and prevent permanent vision impairment; and

WHEREAS, member optometrists of the American Optometric Association, which includes the Tennessee Association of Optometric Physicians, participate in InfantSEE, a nationally recognized public health program to provide a one-time, no-cost eye assessment for infants six to twelve months of age; and

WHEREAS, InfantSEE was first developed as a program in Tennessee by the late Dr. David Sullins and Dr. Glen Steele from the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis; in 2002,

following a challenge from former President Jimmy Carter, the American Optometric Association adopted the Tennessee concept; and

WHEREAS, since InfantSEE's inception, almost 9000 optometrists from across the nation have volunteered their time and expertise to participate in the program and provide care to our youngest residents; 185 of those participating optometrists are from Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the program's objectives are to identify and treat risk factors that may have adverse effects on eye and vision health; reduce the impact of eye and visual conditions that may lead to impairments or loss of sight and may also affect the child's social, emotional, and cognitive development; and educate parents about the importance of eye care for their children; and

WHEREAS, "InfantSEE Week" in Tennessee aims to raise the awareness of the opportunity for parents to have their babies' eyes examined without charge to parent or insurance company, ascertain the prevalence of infant vision issues, investigate the connection between socioeconomic level and early risk factors, determine if there is a link between the vision history of the mother and risk factors of the baby, and build partnerships and form alliances with pediatric stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body commends the members of the Tennessee Association of Optometric Physicians for dedicating their expertise and services to the children of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate April 1-7, 2012, as "InfantSEE Week" in Tennessee, commend Tennessee optometrists for their work with the program, and encourage parents to participate in InfantSEE Week by scheduling an InfantSEE assessment for their infants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.