

International Association of Lions Clubs District 22-A 2018-2019

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March 5, 2019

Delegate Terri Hill, MD Maryland House of Delegates District 12, Baltimore & Howard Counties House Office Building, Room 215 6 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Hill,

The Lions of District 22 A would support the unfunded mandate for HR 1242 Public School Students – Vision Services and the Vision for Maryland Program. There are over 744 Lions located in Harford, Baltimore, Baltimore City, Howard and Ann Arundel counties willing and able to help provide eye screening to students' and provide glasses to those whose insurance will not cover eye care or do not have the financial means.

The Lions have a been providing eye and hearing screening to residents of these counties for over 97 years in this area. Our biggest challenge in the last 15 years has been the inability to go into the schools to provide these services. Some schools conduct Health Fairs, we have been allowed to conduct vision screen and referrals at these events. Lions can and will support the conduct of exams and provide if required provide for additional medical attention and glasses as needed.

Lions Association for Sight & Hearing of Maryland, Inc. (LASH) has created a mobile Vision Screening and Hearing Trailer which is available to go to schools to provide screening. The screening unit has been equipped with a booth with automatic audiometer for hearing screening, several Titmus machines to check visual acuity in school age children and adults and a Welch/Allyn SPOT Vision Screener for preschool children primarily to look for amblyopia. The unit is available to Lions clubs throughout central Maryland. We can provide vouchers for additional medical attention and for glasses. The vouchers require a valid social security number, in addition we have a partnership with Lens Crafters. We have successfully used Titmus machines at Harford Community College, in other counties. We have SPOT machines and PlusOptix machines which we have are designed for use with preschool children. The unit has the capacity to simultaneously screen 3 children inside and with tables outside more can be accommodated.

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District Governor, District 22A