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To: Board Members **Date:** August 4, 2017

From: Rachel Michelin **Telephone:** (916) 575-7170
Glenn Kawaguchi, OD
Children's Vision Workgroup

Subject: Agenda Item 16 – Children's Vision Workgroup Update

The Children's Vision Workgroup was delegated authority to work with legislative staff and participate in stakeholder meeting to assist AB [1110](#) through the legislative process.

AB 1110 encourages elementary school children to have their eyes and vision examined by a physician, optometrist or ophthalmologist upon first enrollment or entry in elementary school. The examination is completely voluntary, and a parent may waive the examination for any reason.

The bill would encourage a school to notify parents and guardians of the examination and waiver option. By imposing additional duties on schools, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would prohibit a school from denying admission to, or taking adverse action against, a pupil if his or her parent or guardian fails to provide the results of the eye and vision examination. The bill would require the department to adopt regulations, rather than guidelines, to implement these provisions.

The author held a successful press conference before the hearing on April 5. The Children's Vision Workgroup attended the event, and Ms. Rachel Michelin served as the emcee. Several Board staff and their children also participated. Various television, newspaper, and radio outlets covered the event and press releases continue to be published. In addition, the Sacramento Bee published Ms. Michelin's editorial on the importance of the bill, which can be found [here](#).

Despite the workgroup's incredible efforts, AB 1110, unfortunately, did not make it out of appropriations during its May 26, 2017 hearing. This was due to the incredibly high cost estimate (\$35 million) from the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Assembly Member Autumn Burke's office have already expressed their commitment to the bill and desire to carry it next year. The Children's Vision Workgroup will meet with her office in August.

In addition to working directly with the author's office, the Children's Vision Workgroup is developing an article for the Board's newsletter (currently under development) about their work with this important piece of legislation and why they, as Board representatives and parents, feel this bill needs to pass. Once completed, pieces of their article will be used for a Back-to-School campaign using our social media outlets and the DCA's Communications Team.