

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 8th Anniversary of InfantSEE, the nationally recognized public health program developed by the American Optometric Association that provides a one-time, no-cost eye assessment for infants who are six to twelve months of age

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 of Disease Control and Prevention, one in eight children is at risk from undiagnosed eye and vision problems; and

WHEREAS, Amblyopia (i.e., "lazy eye"), for instance, is the most common cause of vision impairment in children, is a leading cause of vision loss in people younger than 45 years of age, and affects approximately 489,000 New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, One in 25 children will develop strabismus (i.e., "crossed-eyes"), a risk factor for amblyopia; 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; and

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

WHEREAS, Since the inception of InfantSEE in 2005, hundreds of doctors of optometry in New York State have volunteered their time and expertise to participate in the program with the objectives of: identifying and treating risk factors that may have an adverse effect on eye and vision health; reducing the impact of eye and vision conditions that may lead to impairments or loss of sight that may also affect a child's social, emotional, and cognitive development; and educating parents regarding the importance of eye care for their children; and

WHEREAS, On April 26, 2013, the State University of New York College of Optometry will be conducting a community-wide InfantSEE program at the college; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 8th Anniversary of InfantSEE, and to commend the InfantSEE program and the efforts of doctors of optometry of New York State for dedicating their expertise and services to the children of our State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the State University of New York College of Optometry.