

November 28th, 2018

Testimony of Angela Seger

Parent of Child Benefitting from Services Supported by the Save Our Sight Fund

House Bill 476 – Second Chance Trust Fund

House Transportation and Public Safety Committee

Chairman Green, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on House Bill 476. My name is Angela Seger and I am the parent of a child, Aiden Seger, whose sight was saved by a Prevent Blindness vision screening that was funded by the Save Our Sight Fund.

When Aiden was 4 years old and attending Central College Preschool, his vision was screened and a notice was sent home that he had failed. We received a phone call from Prevent Blindness, who coordinated the vision screening with the preschool. Prevent Blindness really cared and was concerned for Aiden's vision. I have never known anything like that before. It meant so much back then, and continues today.

At the time, my husband and I had NO idea that Aiden had any difficulty with his vision. Initially, I believed that he must have failed the screening because he was a 4 year old boy, with little to no attention span. However, the eye exam done by his eye doctor confirmed the preschool vision screening's results. I will never forget sitting there in that office...stunned, with that parental gut wrenching feeling, as I watched him miss every answer on the tests in his right eye...after he performed them perfectly out of his left eye. How could we have missed this? He was seeing 20/20 out of his left eye, but 20/100 out of his right...and all this time we had no idea!

The first step was fitting him for glasses. After a couple months in them, with no improvement, we moved on to patching. Thanks to the Ohio Amblyope Registry at Nationwide Children's Hospital, we received education about the importance of keeping doctor appointments and free eye patches to support this healing process to bring sight to Aiden's weaker eye.

I became a BIG advocate for vision screening and told anyone who would listen about Aiden's story. It was my duty to educate, as I had no idea myself until I was handed his diagnosis. This experience has been a struggle, but one that was worth it! None of this would have been possible without the Save Our Sight Fund and the sight-saving services that our family received from Save Our Sight grantees at Prevent Blindness and the Ohio Amblyope Registry at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

In closing, I hope that an amendment can be adopted to remove language in HB 476 that would add a second check off on motor vehicle renewals and instead find new revenue sources for the Second Chance Trust Fund. I remain committed to educating others about the importance of healthy vision to Ohio's children. This is my personal crusade and the Save Our Sight Fund was critical to Aiden's future. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

Mission: To Prevent Blindness and Preserve Sight

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