

March 7, 2016

TO: Members of the Education Committee

FR: Marc Ramirez, M.D., FAAP

RE: House Bill 5550, Section 6

I am a pediatrician practicing at Starling Physicians in New Britain. I wanted to add a few words of support for Section 6 of House Bill 5550, *An Act Concerning Various Revisions and Additions to the Education Statutes*.

School children who fail the yearly vision screening need to have appropriate follow-up. Evidence shows that early detection and prevention make a difference. I believe this needs to be a comprehensive eye examination provided by the appropriate licensed professional. Typically, I will discuss the student's needs with their parent or guardian and make the appropriate referral to an ophthalmologist or optometrist. I believe the language that is now in Section 6 will add to the benefits of this law and I urge your support for it. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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