e-Mail to:  Constituent.Relations@nj.gov

The Honorable Phil Murphy

Governor, State of New Jersey

225 West State Street

Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

I am writing to express support for bill S-2804/A-4310 that would require young children entering public schools or Head Start Programs for the first time to have a comprehensive eye examination. This bill passed both Houses of the Legislature.

As parents, we presume that if our child has a vision problem we would be aware of it.  But most of the vision problems that interfere with a child’s development and learning escape detection.  This is because they aren’t the obvious problems of not being able to see things clearly far away, or the appearance of having a crossed or lazy eye.  Nor can we rely on children to tell us when they’re having problems, because they presume that the way they their eyes see or feel is the same as everyone else.

Through personal experience, I learned the hard way that my child was struggling with vision problems that weren’t picked up by initial vision screenings.  We cannot let other children and families endure these hardships and struggles because they relied on screenings to substitute for examinations at the outset of school.

Our children rely on us, as adults and parents, to provide them with the visual tools essential for learning.  The only way this can be done reliably is to require a complete eye examination as stated in S-2804-A/A-4310.

**I urge your approval of S-2804/A-4310**.

Thank you.

Name

Address

Phone/e-mail