

## MOTION 8

Combine resolution 1923 into resolution 1981 and continue with modification resolution 1981 as an active policy pronouncement:

[Note: wording to be deleted is ~~lined-out~~; wording to be added is underscored].

1981  
(5 of 2011)  
(Combination in 2015,  
1892-2 of 1992 – Mod.  
1995, 2005)

### COMPREHENSIVE VISION CARE SERVICES FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN

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WHEREAS, it is important that vision impairments and ocular abnormalities be discovered at the earliest possible age; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis, treatment, and management provide for greater success in resolving vision and eye health problems; and

WHEREAS, undetected and untreated eye disorders such as amblyopia and strabismus can result in delayed reading and poorer outcomes in school; and

WHEREAS, studies show that while prevalence rates vary between demographic groups, there is an increasing need for eye care among children, indicating that 25% of children aged 5-17 have a vision problem<sup>1</sup>, 79% have not visited an eye care provider in the past year<sup>2</sup>, 35% have never seen an eye care professional<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the National Eye Institute's Vision In Preschoolers (VIP) Study of preschool children acknowledges a comprehensive examination performed by an eye doctor is the "standard;" and

WHEREAS, the 2011 School Readiness Summit: Focus on Vision issued a joint statement by multiple organizations recommending the following: "*We support comprehensive eye exams for school-aged children as a foundation for a coordinated and improved approach to addressing children's vision and eye health issues and as a key element of ensuring school readiness in American children* <sup>4</sup>;" and

WHEREAS, doctors of optometry~~optometrists~~ are the primary eye health and vision care providers in the nation; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Optometric Association supports an in-person comprehensive vision and eye health examination as the

foundation for eye care services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that ~~the American Optometric Association~~AOA recommends that all children have an in-person comprehensive vision and eye health examination between six months and twelve months of age, ~~at 3 years of age, before entry into formal school, and as recommended thereafter by the eye doctor, at least once between ages 3 and 5, before first grade, and annually thereafter;~~ and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ~~American Optometric Association~~AOA inform the public of the need to have infants' and children's eyes examined as recommended by their family ~~optometrist~~doctor of optometry; and be it further-

RESOLVED, that the American Optometric Association~~AOA~~ encourages ~~dDoctors of o~~Optometry, as a matter of professional responsibility, to garner appropriate private and public support to assure that every child receives eye health and vision care services essential for his or her optimal development.

1. Kleinstejn, RN et al. Refractive error and ethnicity in children. Arch Ophthalmol 2003; 121:1141-1147.

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Visual impairment and use of eye-care services and protective eyewear among children – United States, 2002. MMWR 2005; 54:425-429.

3. The Vision Care Institute. Americans' Attitudes and Perceptions about Vision Care. Conducted by Harris Interactive on behalf of The Vision Care Institute™ of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc., 2006.

4. Joint Statement of the 2011 School Readiness Summit: Focus on Vision