

Irving Bennett, O.D.

October 13, 2008

Ms. Susan Meister
Administrative Rules Coordinator
Illinois Department of Public Health
535 W. Jefferson Street, 5th Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Objection to proposed rule for Public Act 95-0671

Dear Ms. Meister:

I object to the proposed rulemaking in Sections 665.160 and 665.630 of the Child Health Examination Code.

I have watched with genuine interest the work of the Vision First Foundation, and its enthusiastic director Mrs. Janet Hughes, in supporting the law for the State of Illinois mandating eye examinations for entering schoolchildren. I am now watching her work to make sure that the professions fulfill the meaning of the law by making absolutely certain that the children examined are capable of using both of their eyes together at the same time, a necessity for depth perception and functional vision.

Often laws are hampered by agency rules and that may well be happening here. Having watched this process in several states over my years of work in foundations and in the professions, I urge you to give serious consideration to the VFF report form. It will do more in making sure the intent of the law is followed. Proper testing and reporting will be of extreme value to that population – the children – that might otherwise fall through the cracks.

I know from personal experience this effort on the part of the Vision First Foundation is not a turf battle. It is not a self-aggrandizing effort. It is a sincere endeavor on the part of mothers and fathers and interested people to do all they can to provide good vision to our youngsters.

I hope sincerely you and your colleagues support this effort and approve the VFF report form as proof of an eye examination.

Sincerely,

Irving Bennett, OD