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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG
MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Richard Mirabito

DATE: June 13, 2012

SUBJECT: Resolution Celebrating the 55th Anniversary of North Central Sight Services, Inc.

In the near future, I plan to introduce a resolution celebrating the 55th anniversary of North Central Sight Services, Inc.

North Central Sight Services, Inc., formerly known as the Lycoming County Association for the Blind, was incorporated on February 7, 1957 as the 29th branch of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. North Central Sight Services provides opportunities for the blind and visually impaired to achieve self-reliance and autonomy through the exceptional programs, services, and employment opportunities accessible to the blind and visually impaired residents of north central Pennsylvania, including the inhabitants of Bradford, Centre, Clinton, Lycoming, Potter, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Tioga Counties.

Macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy are just two of the many visual imparities present among thousands of Pennsylvanians as well as people worldwide. According to the National Eye Institute (NEI), the incidence of macular degeneration (MD) is considerably higher in geographical areas with a greater population of people age 40 and older. Age-related MD (AMD) is more prevalent among Caucasians than among African-Americans. The NEI estimates that the number of persons with AMD will likely increase by 50% by 2020.

Additionally, the NEI reports that the incidence rate of diabetic retinopathy is 3.4% of the general population but is significantly higher among diabetics at 40.3%. Furthermore, 1 in 12 (8.2%) of persons with diabetes have advanced, vision-threatening retinopathy.

Throughout its history, North Central Sight Services has tirelessly supported and promoted the interests of individuals afflicted with macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, or other visual imparities by creating independent lives and meaningful jobs for these Pennsylvanians.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Jeannie Kosier in my Harrisburg office at (717) 772-1314 or via email at jkosier@pahouse.net.