

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:
Prevent Blindness America
Sarah Hecker
312-363-6035

**PREVENT BLINDNESS AMERICA BOARD MEMBER
CHOSEN FOR FDA PANEL**

CHICAGO (December 2, 2005) – Prevent Blindness America (PBA), the nation’s oldest non-profit organization dedicated to saving sight, is pleased to announce that Richard Bunner, national board member of the organization, has been selected as the consumer representative of the Ophthalmic Devices Panel of the Medical Devices Advisory Committee, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Food and Drug Administration.

The purpose of the panel is to provide recommendations for regulation of ophthalmic devices to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs. The panel is comprised of experts in the field of medicine, engineering, and varying fields of science. Bunner was selected as the consumer representative to provide valuable input in these discussions.

“We are thrilled to have someone from the PBA family chosen for such an important position,” said Daniel D. Garrett, senior vice president of PBA. “As an advocate for the vision health of patients and consumers, Richard Bunner brings a critical perspective to this panel.”

Of the six nominees to the panel, Bunner was chosen because of his extensive experience at both the local and national levels with vision related issues. He began his career as a teacher of the visually impaired. Later, he went on to become a vision health consultant for the Ohio Department of Health where he developed vision screening standards, and created and managed a network of children’s vision clinics staffed jointly by optometrists and ophthalmologists.

Most recently, the Chronic Disease Directors contracted Bunner to provide on-site evaluations of public health vision services in five states. Currently, he serves as Vice-chair of Community Programs for Prevent Blindness Ohio, as Board Vice-chair on the PBA Executive Committee, and as Co-chair on the PBA Government Affairs Committee.

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About Prevent Blindness America

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness America is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness America touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, community and patient service programs and research. These services are made possible through the generous support of the American public. Together with a network of affiliates, divisions and chapters, it's committed to eliminating preventable blindness in America. For more information, or to make a contribution to the sight-saving fund, call 1-800-331-2020 or visit us on the Web at www.preventblindness.org.

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