

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **PREVENT BLINDNESS AMERICA EXECUTIVE CHOSEN FOR WHITE HOUSE COMMITTEE FOCUSED ON AGING**

**CHICAGO (Nov. 1, 2005)** – Prevent Blindness America (PBA), a national non-profit organization dedicated to saving sight, is pleased to announce that Daniel D. Garrett, senior vice president of the organization, has been chosen to be an at-large delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA). The event will be held Dec. 11-14 of this year in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of the conference is to draft and submit detailed recommendations to President George W. Bush and Congress to assist in shaping national policies and guidelines for the future. The 2005 event will be the fifth year of the conference and is mandated by the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000. This year's theme will be "The Booming Dynamics of Aging: From Awareness to Action."

Garrett was chosen by the WHCoA Policy Committee from a large number of applications. At-large delegates to the conference represent individuals from all walks of life including those from non-profit groups, medical or business professionals, and the general public.

"I am truly honored to be chosen to serve on this important task force," said Garrett. "I hope my experience working with PBA and other national organizations will make a positive impact on the future of American public health policies for vision and eye care."

PBA specializes in helping older Americans by offering free information on many eye diseases that target seniors including cataracts, glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. This year, the group has partnered with Medicare Rx Education Network, a group formed by the National Health Council, to help guide seniors through the new Medicare Part D enrollment process.

Garrett and PBA continue to engage Congress in several advocacy efforts designed to improve vision care for all Americans. In 2004, PBA helped form the Congressional Vision Caucus to work with legislators to champion vision health policies at the federal level. Through this effort, the "Vision Preservation Act of 2005" was proposed (HR-2671) to strengthen vision loss research and prevention programs at both the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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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](http://www.preventblindness.org).

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