

NEWS RELEASE



Lt. Governor Bruce Johnson

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LT. GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO VISION LOSS PREVENTION SYMPOSIUM

COLUMBUS-- Lieutenant Governor Bruce Johnson today addressed researchers, doctors and business leaders to discuss the prevention of age-related eye diseases at a first of its kind Vision Loss Prevention Research Symposium at COSI in Columbus.

“The time is now for researchers, doctors and businesses from across Ohio to come together to make sure that our state’s bright future is one that all Ohioans can see clearly,” Johnson said. “The collaborations and partnerships formed through Ohio’s Third Frontier Project can position Ohio to be the leader in the prevention of degenerative eye diseases.”

In an important step in the battle against degenerative eye diseases, Ohio’s Third Frontier project recently announced a \$6 million grant to the Cleveland Clinic Foundation which will develop a diagnostic test to identify individuals at risk for Adult Macular Degeneration, and to develop techniques for the early diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

The number of Ohio seniors affected by aging eye diseases is expected to double over the next 30 years as the Baby Boomer generation ages. More than 2.5 million Ohioans will be affected. Based on this doubling of vision loss in the next three decades, the cost of visual disorders and disabilities in Ohio can reach more than \$9.4 billion annually by the year 2030.

The Symposium is a project of Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership, a statewide collaboration formed to respond to the growth aging eye challenges in Ohio.

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