

effort and diligent attempts on the part of some of our country's most respected ophthalmological and neurological associations. The present National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, an association which has unanimously voted to support the formation of a separate National Eye Institute within the National Institutes of Health, frankly points out that it is unable to give adequate attention to the requirements of vision research.

A National Eye Institute would permit us to give the kind of attention needed to alleviate the suffering of thousands of American blind. The programs of research and training provided by this measure would, hopefully, reduce the enormous cost to the country of blindness, as well.

I urge the committee to favorably report this measure.

Mr. JARMAN. Thank you for your concise statement, Mr. Corman.

Our last Member to be heard from this morning is the Honorable Herbert Tenzer, of New York. Please proceed as you see fit, Mr. Tenzer.

STATEMENT OF HON. HERBERT TENZER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. TENZER. Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee on Public Health and Welfare, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before your subcommittee and to speak in support of the legislation now under consideration, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of a National Eye Institute in the National Institutes of Health.

In the 89th Congress, I introduced a bill calling for the establishment of a National Eye Institute in NIH and am delighted to again raise my voice in support of this forward-looking legislation which is so vitally needed.

For many years before I came to the Congress, I was identified with organizations engaged in research in the field of blinding eye diseases and visual disorders. During the past 20 years, it has been my privilege to have been a member and an officer, and for the past 11 years, president of the National Council to Combat Blindness, Inc. (Fight for Sight), a voluntary agency, which through its fight for sight makes awards annually, through grants-in-aid, student fellowships, post-doctoral research fellowships, and clinical service projects. Since 1946 the council has carried on extensive work in the field of basic and clinical eye research at hospitals, medical schools, and universities throughout the United States and elsewhere in the world.

Because of my experience through this affiliation and with other voluntary agencies which provide care for blind persons, I was motivated to introduce H.R. 5501 and to appear before your subcommittee in support of the legislation under consideration today.

Today in the United States alone there are 3½ million men, women, and children with chronic noncorrective visual defects and that number is increasing each year. It is estimated that by 1975, unless there are some dramatic major developments in the field of eye research and treatment, there will be 16 million totally blind persons in the world. This Nation cannot and must not accept defeat in this battle against eye disease.