

are grateful to you for taking the time to be with us. Our final witness this morning is John F. Nagle, chief of the Washington Office of the National Federation of the Blind. We are pleased to have you with us today.

**STATEMENT OF JOHN F. NAGLE, CHIEF, WASHINGTON OFFICE,
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND**

Mr. NAGLE. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is John F. Nagle. I am chief of the Washington Office of the National Federation of the Blind. My address is 1908 Q Street NW., Washington, D.C.

Mr. Chairman, the National Federation of the Blind is a nationwide organization with a membership primarily of blind men and women.

Representative of every background, activity, and area in the Nation, the members of the National Federation of the Blind are rank and file Americans.

By our organized efforts, we seek to translate shared hopes and objectives into improved conditions and equalized opportunities for all blind persons.

When the National Federation of the Blind met for its 26th annual national convention in Louisville, Ky., last year, with more than 700 blind persons in attendance from all parts of the Nation, a resolution was considered and unanimously approved by the resolutions committee, it was unanimously approved, after floor consideration, by the convention meeting in business session.

The resolution reads:

Whereas, Senator Lister Hill, Alabama, has introduced in the United States Senate S. 3514, a bill to establish a National Eye Institute in the National Eye Institute in the National Institutes of Health; and

Whereas, the National Eye Institute would conduct research and explore and determine the causes of blindness, and would also authorize and finance the research of others for the same purpose; and

Whereas, although we as blind people know that, today, blindness does not have to be a disaster in a person's life, we also know that, too often, it is a disaster because of inadequate help and training needed for successfully adjusting to the changed circumstances resulting from loss of sight; and

Whereas, we as blind people believe that the economic and social consequences of blindness upon the individual, his family and society, generally, are so great and grave as to justify and demand a major governmental-financed effort to ascertain the causes of blindness in order that it may be eradicated from the lives and experience of the men, women, and children of this nation and throughout the world;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this 7th day of July, 1966, in the city of Louisville, Kentucky, that this organization commends and congratulates Senator Hill for his sponsorship of the bill to create a National Eye Institute;

And be it further resolved that this organization orders and directs its officers and staff to take all actions necessary to support the National Eye Institute bill toward Congressional enactment in the 89th Congress.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is in furtherance of the spirit of this resolution and the expressed policy of the National Federation of the Blind that we are appearing here today.

And we are appearing here to give our full support to the bills H.R. 12843 and H.R. 10780, introduced in the House of Representatives by the Honorable Harley Staggers and Hon. Paul G. Rogers, both able and distinguished members of this committee.