

Nominee Statement: Jeff Todd

Position: IAPB North America Regional Chair

Nominee Job Title

CEO

Nominee Organisation

Prevent Blindness

Nominating IAPB member organisation

World Council of Optometry

Nominated by

Cindy Tromans

Nominating Statement

I am writing this letter in support of the nomination Jeff Todd, President and CEO of Prevent Blindness for a position on the IAPB Board. Cindy Tromans and I, representing the World Council of Optometry, support this nomination and I, personally, having known Jeff in the public health arena for many years feel he is the right person to consider for a board position.

I met Jeff many years ago as he entered the vision community under the Prevent Blindness umbrella. He came with no preset knowledge about vision and eye health. He immediately tried to understand the issues that we face in improving vision and eye health outcomes from a public health perspective. I have always been impressed by his understanding of the issues and even more so by the thoughts and ideas he contributes to address them. Obviously, over the past two decades the learning process has been steep. Jeff, however, has always worked to build strong networks of communication within the vision community striving to have a full understanding of the issues and supporting content. As we all know, that in itself has been a challenging hurdle since the science and evidence keeps changing but that has deterred Jeff from moving forward continuing to broaden his understanding and being open to other thoughts. Knowledge and skills.

While in his role in the early years with Prevent Blindness, Jeff worked hard to help engage many of the diverse networks in Vision 2020 USA. He actually offered time, administrative support and a room to meet for several years in an effort to build the conversation among the many stakeholders. Initially in his role with Vision 2020 USA, he worked with other Vision 2020 local leadership to bring NGO's, government representatives, media, ophthalmology and optometry together to talk about the issues at the time. Even though his organization was a national organization, Jeff worked diligently to understand some of the global issues and even be part of the solution to bring experts together to sort through the barriers. This is evidenced by his efforts from PB to garner support of both National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine reports focused on vision, the most recent one covering myopia.

More recently, Jeff has taken over the leadership role as IAPB Regional Chair. I was so pleased to see him follow Suzanne Gilbert. That role requires a sensitivity of the global issues and an understanding of the North American perspective of the current problems. He has already shown leadership and the ability to listen and mold the thoughts into coherent ideas.

I have watched Jeff over the past two decades and have always appreciated his willingness to listen to everyone, to be sensitive to the varied perspectives of the stakeholders, to work to garner alignment without compromising beliefs, to help be a part of the development of various models to best to solve the issues, while at the same time to watch his leadership skills grow and blossom. I have no doubt that Jeff Todd would make an excellent IAPB member and strongly support his nomination.

[Click here for the statement.](#)

Seconded IAPB member organisation

Flaum Eye Institute

Seconding by

Rajeev Ramchandran

Seconding Statement

I am extremely pleased to second Cindy Tromans's nomination of Jeff Todd, President and CEO of Prevent Blindness, as Regional Chair of North America. Jeff stepped in as Interim Regional IAPB Chair of North American stepping in upon the retirement of Suzanne Gilbert. I am seconding Dr.



Block's nomination of him to remain in this role in the upcoming election for the Regional Chair Position.

As the leader of Prevent Blindness, Jeff's contributions to the organization have included launching the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health, a resource that promotes a continuum of eye health care for children across the country; fostering an annual national summit as a forum for the exchange of ideas relating to vision and public health; and overseeing the development of leading public health research, which has become widely used to capture the prevalence and cost of vision problems across the United States. He leads a talented staff that has expanded its reach over the past decade and is currently in a growth phase.

In addition to his work at Prevent Blindness, Jeff is Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Health Council, is an advisor to the Prevent Child Injury coalition, is a past chair of the Vision Care Section of the American Public Health Association and has served on the Board of Directors of Chicago-based Howard Brown Health Center. Jeff is also a member of the District of Columbia (D.C) Bar Association.

Most importantly, Jeff has been an active member of IAPB for more than a decade and was a founding member and former Chair of the Board of Vision 2020 USA, upon which he continues to serve. Jeff is currently working with IAPB staff to outline a 2025 agenda for the IAPB North America Region, and I am very excited to see him continue this work.

[Click here for the statement.](#)

Nominee Statement

For the past 22 years of my 35-year career in public health, I have been dedicated to advancing eye health and equitable access to vision care. As President and CEO of Prevent Blindness, I have the privilege of leading the United States' foremost organization dedicated to preventing blindness and preserving sight. Under my leadership, Prevent Blindness has grown its impact through key initiatives like the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health, an annual Focus on Eye Health Summit, pivotal research on the prevalence and cost of vision problems in the U.S., and advocacy for the Early Detection for Vision Impairment in Children Act, currently under U.S. Congressional review.

My experience extends beyond domestic work, however, as I have been actively involved in international efforts, serving as the current interim North America Regional Director for the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and as a past Chair of Vision 2020 USA, a coalition working



toward global Vision 2020 objectives. I've had the opportunity to contribute to IAPB initiatives, providing input on global planning efforts and representing the U.S. perspective in key discussions at Global Assemblies and other international gatherings, and advocating for U.S. support of the passage of the UN Resolution on Eye Health.

Collaboration has been the foundation of my work across my career. I firmly believe that public health solutions are best achieved through partnerships and coalition-driven strategies. As Regional Chair, I would focus on engaging stakeholders across national and regional levels to support IAPB's strategic priorities, including driving political engagement for the Global Summit on Eye Health, fostering evidence-based policies, and facilitating knowledge exchange between global and local contexts.

With a track record of advocating for policy change, building multi-sectoral alliances, and leading organizational growth, I am confident in my ability to help IAPB meet its 2030 In Sight goals. My experience working with diverse stakeholders, from government leaders to community organizations, equips me to support the IAPB Secretariat and engage regional members effectively.

It would be an honor to serve as the North American Regional Chair and continue advancing the mission of IAPB by driving strategic collaboration and amplifying the urgency of addressing avoidable blindness at the national, regional, and global levels.

Thank you for considering my nomination.