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***FEP BlueVisionSM to Offer Vision Benefits to All Federal Employees
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association Selects Davis Vision as Exclusive
Partner***

PLAINVIEW, NY (May 12, 2006)-- The United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has selected **FEP BlueVisionSM** to serve over 8.5 million eligible federal employees, retirees and their respective family members effective December 31, 2006. Operating under the name **FEP BlueVision**, Plainview, NY-based Davis Vision will be the exclusive vision care program partner of the Blue and Cross Blue Shield Association's Federal Employee Program (FEP) and its 38 participating Blue plans.

FEP BlueVision is a comprehensive product, and eligible federal employees who select it will gain access to Davis Vision's extensive network of providers, its proprietary delivery system and administrative services through all Blue plans across the United States and its protectorates.

"Davis Vision is truly honored to partner with the FEP to bring this historic offering to some 8.5 million federal employees and retirees from coast to coast

and abroad,” said Joe Carlomusto, Davis Vision chief operating officer. “FEP is clearly the leader in providing quality benefits and extensive networks to federal employees and retirees with over half (4.6 million) of those eligible for federal medical/health benefits already served by Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans.”

As the nation’s largest employer and a workforce committed to safeguarding the health, security, and well being of all Americans, the Federal Government recognizes that great work/life policies, programs, and practices make good business sense. The introduction of dental and vision benefits for federal employees is a highly-anticipated addition to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP).

The relationship between BCBSA and OPM spans decades. As a long-standing, and the largest, health services provider in the FEHBP, the BCBSA and its participating Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans are committed to meeting the health care needs of the federal community as the federal benefit offerings continue to evolve. For nearly 45 years, through a partnership with the OPM, FEP and its participating plans have provided affordable and comprehensive health coverage through the FEHBP to federal employees and annuitants. It is fully anticipated that **FEP BlueVision** will enjoy the same, if not greater, success.

“**FEP BlueVision** will care for and protect members’ vision and, by extension, their overall health,” stated Stephen W. Gammarino, BCBSA senior vice president, national programs. “FEP’s long-standing dependability and commitment to providing the best value in health care services extends to our new vision product. We are proud to be able to continue to serve federal employees and retirees with our established abilities to deliver responsive, quality care in a timely manner.”

About Davis Vision

Davis Vision was the first vision care preferred provider organization to receive accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). Its provider network-credentialing program has been certified by the NCQA. The company administers comprehensive vision services

through an extensive network of over 25,000 participating providers, which include independent ophthalmologists, optometrists, opticians and many of the nation's premier retail centers. This blended network provides Davis Vision's 35 million members with tremendous choice and flexibility.

Davis Vision was acquired by Highmark Inc. in 1996 and is based in Plainview, New York. For more information about Davis Vision, visit www.davisvision.com.

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