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5 March 2021

TO: Representative Maxine Dexter
Chair
House Committee on Health Care –
House Subcommittee on COVID-19
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem , OR 97301

RE:Support in favor of HB 3030

Dear Representative Dexter,

I am pleased to see a hearing is scheduled for HB 3030. Doctors of Optometry are a benevolent group of health care providers who are motivated to help Oregonians in these difficult times. As you know, the federal agencies and the state of Oregon want to vaccinate as many Oregonians with the greatest speed possible with the highest level of safety.

To achieve the goals of offering the vaccine to every adult in America by May, as many vaccinators as possible will be needed (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/03/02/covid-biden-vaccine-cases/>)

OHSU continues to recruit health care workers who can administer vaccinations . (<https://www.ohsu.edu/visitors-and-volunteers/covid-19-vaccination-volunteer-opportunities>).

Vaccinators are being recruited at medical and nursing schools, pharmacists and dentists and retired health care workers. (<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/who-giving-covid-vaccines-states-scramble-find-vaccinators-n1258370>)

Doctors of Optometry are trained to give intramuscular injections. We are prepared to do our part for this pandemic and future emergencies that require our help in the future. Dentists and pharmacists are able to give vaccinations. Why not doctors of optometry?

Although we have received the necessary training to give IM injections, our licensing board has been advised doctors of optometry do not have the necessary legal authority to provide vaccinations. It is necessary to have legislation such as HB 3030 enacted to allow optometrists to join other health care providers in the active administration of vaccinations.

Time is of the essence. To speed the rate and number of people receiving vaccinations, other locations will open up and they will need more vaccinators. Doctors of Optometry are well distributed throughout Oregon and in many small and rural communities.

Please give due consideration and recommend a Do Pass to the Health Care Committee and the House of Representatives. Please honor the auspices of the bill as an emergency act to accelerate its passage.

Respectfully

Gregory G. Kautz, OD, FAAO
Optometric Physician