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February 10, 2021

Representative Rachel Prusak
Chair, House Health Care Committee
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court Street NE, H-489
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Prusak:

I write you today in support of HB2541. For over 70 years, our office has prided itself on serving the community with the utmost care. This bill will allow us to continue to meet our goal and allow our patients to receive care in a timely fashion. Updating certain statutory provisions, while removing other unnecessary barriers in state law for optometric physicians, is critical in keeping up with the rigorous education and clinical training that primary eye and vision care providers receive today.

Currently, 85% of primary eye care is provided by an optometric physician. With an aging population, the number of vision related problems in the U.S. are projected to increase by 65% in the coming years. Without updating the scope of practice for optometrists, 99.9% of the population with direct access to optometric care is denied access to routine high-quality care in Oregon communities and must incur the added expense of referrals to specialists whose offices are often significant distances away and/or result in long wait times between office visits. This results in the unnecessary duplication of care and lost time from work, school, and other daily obligations for families across the state. It is not only the patients that suffer, but also their family members that miss work to take them to multiple unnecessary appointments.

Optometric physicians are on the front lines of eye health and vision care. In addition to providing comprehensive vision care, we also manage the entire spectrum of ocular diseases. As a legislated profession, our ability to manage these conditions appropriately requires occasional modifications to the scope of practice defined in Oregon Revised Statutes. Technology and optometric training have changed to the point that it is now time to update Oregon statutes to reflect these changes.

It is for the reasons listed above that I support optometric physicians practicing to their full educational authority. Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you might have.

Best regards,



Shaina Sullivan, O.D.



Charles McBride, O.D.