

February 11, 2020

To: Members of the Oregon House Healthcare Committee

Dear Members of the Oregon House Healthcare Committee:

I am writing this letter to you in support of Oregon optometry in regards to HB2541, and their efforts towards optometric scope expansion in regards to including certain laser procedures for the front portion of the eye. The 3 laser procedures, YAG laser capsulotomy, laser PI, and SLT, are all procedures which optometrists are well equipped and trained to handle and perform and are already performing in other states. These laser procedures are done with a laser equipped slit lamp that requires the same skill set as performing general slit lamp examinations during routine comprehensive eye examinations. This is a skill that optometrists spend 4 years mastering during their optometric education. I can assure you that the most prominent skills needed to perform a YAG capsulotomy, laser PI, and SLT are skills optometrists are capable and trained to do.

For all of the laser procedures mentioned, the greatest benefit would be improved public health to Oregonians by having increased access to these procedures. Over the past decade, SLT has emerged as a first line glaucoma treatment with numerous advantages over a daily regimen of eyedrops. Allowing this scope expansion will help Oregonians get timely and effective treatment to manage chronic glaucoma and secondary cataracts, especially in rural areas where patients have limited access and availability to medical providers to perform these procedures. Improved access to these procedures could prevent devastating vision loss and blindness to thousands of Oregonians. Passing HB2541 will help Oregonians receive high quality care from qualified optometric physicians and facilitate Oregon attracting the best and brightest future eyecare providers.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Uggen, OD  
Lifetime Vision Source