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

Dear House Health Care Committee:

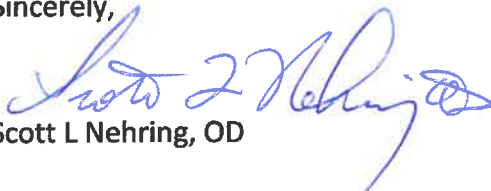
I write you today in support of **HB2541**. I have been an optometric physician in Oregon for 38 years with the last 35 years being in Woodburn. I have seen many changes to the needs of patients, the technology available and the procedures available to improve the quality of life for patients. This bill will update the optometric law to allow optometric physicians to utilize their education and training to the highest level.

In 1975 Oregon became one of the first states to pass legislation allowing optometric physicians to use Diagnostic Pharmaceutical Agents (DPA). This let optometric physicians dilate the pupil and anesthetize the eye to diagnosis medical eye conditions. I have been involved in optometry legislation since the late 1980's. In 1991 and 1993 legislation was passed to allow optometric physicians to treat patient's medical eye conditions with Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents (TPAs). In 2001 a bill was passed to allow optometric physicians to use oral medications and injections to treat medical conditions of the eye.

I mention the legislative history of optometry because as education, training and technology advance for optometric physicians we have sought to update our law to provide better, timelier and often critical care for our patients. SB 2541 will update certain statutory provisions so I can serve my patients with better access and better care.

I thank the committee for considering HB2541. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you have.

Sincerely,


Scott L Nehring, OD

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