

Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs Salinas and Hayden, and members of the House Healthcare Committee:

As a board certified ophthalmologist specializing in cataract surgery and comprehensive ophthalmology I am opposed to HB2541. Our oath as physicians and surgeons is, "First, do no harm." As one can see from the testimony of Drs Morrison, McKinney and Young (all glaucoma specialists), patients with glaucoma still go blind every year in Oregon despite maximal treatment. Timing matters in both the medical and surgical management of glaucoma. Delayed treatment or ill-timed treatment can hasten a patient's vision loss. HB2541 would take away the requirement of consulting with an ophthalmologist for complex or progressing glaucoma. The expertise to manage complex eye disease like glaucoma and perform any eye surgery requires 4 years of medical school, 1 year of internship and then 3 years of surgical training in residency. That is just the beginning of an ophthalmologist's training. There are no "simple" eye surgeries when you are taking someone's vision into your hands. I urge all of the committee members to vote NO on HB2541.

Jonathan Kemp, MD
Past President Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology