

Honorable Representatives

I'm U. John Berzins, MD. I have been an ophthalmologist for almost 40 years and have performed perhaps 15,000 eye surgeries. I have served on the faculty of OHSU as a clinical instructor teaching surgery to residents. For over 30 years I have served as an Associate Examiner of the American Board of Ophthalmology, testing other surgeons for board certification. I'm writing to express my strong opposition to HB2541 allowing optometrists to perform surgery.

It's a terrible idea. They're not medical doctors. There's a place for them in eye care; the operating or laser room isn't it. Their training is nowhere near that of an MD, and can't become that with extra courses. Seriously, if it were your eye, would you want a non-MD cutting on it? I think not.

Please vote no. Thank you.

U. John Berzins, MD