

February 16, 2021

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

Dear House Health Care Committee:

I am writing on behalf of myself, a current optometry student, as well as those Oregon doctors of optometry supporting HB2541.

What is most important for you to know is that the procedures referenced by HB2541 are part of the normal curriculum for all future optometric physicians. This includes lectures on post-operative care, complication recognition and hands-on training with instruments. We follow the same regimen with all optometric procedures, yet until Oregon statutes are modernized, doctors of optometry will not be able to perform YAG and SLT procedures in clinics. When considering where to practice post-graduation, this is definitely a deterrent. There are already five other states that allow optometrists to perform these procedures. With advancing technologies in the field of optometry, the demand for modernization in optometric care should follow. We continue to strive to provide our communities with the best possible access to care along with the safest and most advanced techniques.

When we graduate from school as doctors of optometry, we take an oath. A portion of the Optometric Oath that I find very applicable for this bill states: "I WILL practice the art and science of optometry faithfully and conscientiously, and to the fullest scope of my competence."

While I am studying for my tests, national board exams and proficiencies, what encourages me most is knowing that when I graduate, I will be able to serve patients with the best care I can offer with the training and education needed to perform these procedures. Only by supporting the profession and the advancement of medicine can we best protect and provide for our patients.

House Health Care Committee, please vote YES on HB 2541. Allow us, the future doctors of optometry, to practice at the highest level of our education.

Sincerely,  
Kyara Farinella  
Doctor of Optometry Candidate, Class of 2022