

February 17, 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 **in support of 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. Through my education these past few years, I have been trained on how and when to perform laser procedures. Included in my education are lectures on post-operative care, complication recognition and hands-on training with instruments under direct supervision of optometrists who are already certified in these procedures in different states. 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.

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. Through our excellent education, we have undergone extensive education on how and when to perform these procedures safely but are unable to give our patients the best care at the moment.

House Health Care Committee, I urge you to **please vote YES on HB 2541**. Allow us, the future Doctors of Optometry, to practice at the highest level of our education and better provide for our growing community.

Sincerely,

Anjali Rupela
4th Year Optometry Student