



Apple Eyecare^{PC}

where you are the apple of our eye!

1/30/2025

We are optometric physicians practicing in rural Oregon and are reaching out to ask for your support in the passage of HB 2204. The bill removes the requirement that optometric physicians have hospital consulting privileges in order to qualify for a rural tax credit.

To compete with more populated areas in acquiring physicians, rural communities rely upon financial incentives such as tax credits and student loan forgiveness. Competition is extremely high and without such incentives we lag further behind in attracting the talent necessary to serve our community. Our practice has been attempting to attract a new optometric physician for **6 ½ years!**

To function as intended, tax credits must be easily accessible. The requirement to have a hospital affiliation is an unnecessary barrier to many optometric physicians in rural communities. The credentialing process is arduous. It can take months or even years for small rural hospitals to establish criteria for new providers, and **they often have little or no motivation to do so.**

We support expanding access to rural healthcare and HB 2204 is a positive step forward. Thank you for your support!

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