



OREGON OPTOMETRIC PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION

March 18, 2025

Chair Nosse and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

On behalf of the Oregon Optometric Physicians Association (OOPA) and its more than 900 members, please accept this letter opposing HB 3912.

The bill requires an individual who uses the title “doctor” in connection with a health care profession to designate on specified material, including social media and professional name badges, the health care profession in which the individual earned a doctoral degree.

This bill undermines trust in optometrists with unnecessary restrictions that do not improve patient safety. While this bill does not explicitly prohibit the term “doctor” for optometrists, it seeks to undermine the education, training, and credibility of O.D.s.

This bill shifts focus away from patient care and creates unnecessary confusion among healthcare professionals.

Federal law affirms optometrists’ expertise and their role as primary eye care providers. Doctors of optometry are recognized as physicians by the nation’s largest health care provider, the VA, and the nation’s largest health care provider, CMS. Any attempt to diminish their title or restrict their professional identity contradicts this established precedent that has existed since 1986.

Because this bill offers no greater patient safety, confuses providers and diminishes trust in optometrists, we ask that the committee oppose this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Geoff Knapp
Executive Director