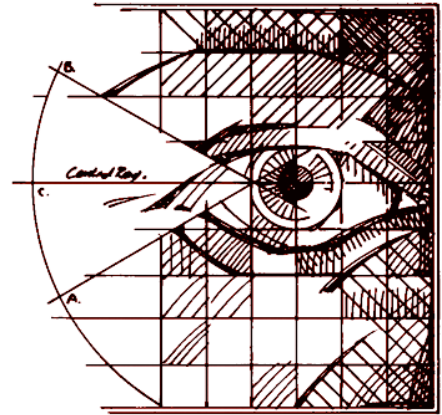


OLIVER M. KORSHIN, M. D.
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March 12, 2016

Senator Mia Costello, Chair
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Senate Bill No. 55 — “An Act relating to the practice of optometry”

Dear Senator Costello:

It was a privilege for me to testify regarding SB 55 before your committee on March 10th.
Thank you for the opportunity.

I’m writing to you again to supplement my testimony, in particular to register my dismay that the bill’s sponsor could have such a fundamental misunderstanding of ophthalmic lasers as to represent them to your committee as primarily diagnostic devices.

Where could Sen. Giessel have gotten this idea except from the optometrists themselves? Optometrists know perfectly well that ophthalmic lasers are primarily surgical instruments, as potent and as dangerous as a scalpel blade.

In support of the bill, both Sen. Giessel and her staff, as well as the testifying optometrists, represented its main purpose as giving the optometrists an independent board, and as having little to do with surgery or with the use of controlled substances.

Any “reasonable person” reading the bill can readily see that both eye surgery and the use of controlled substances constitute its core purpose.

Sincerely,

Oliver Korshin, M. D.

cc: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Sen. Gary Stevens
Sen. Johnny Ellis