

Doniece Gott

From: Steven Dobson <stevendobsonod@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 07, 2017 7:12 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson
Cc: Elizabeth Stevens
Subject: HB 103

Dear Senators

I urge your support of HB 103.

HB 103 will allow Alaskans, continued access to advances in quality optometric eye care.

HB 103 will allow board autonomy. The state board of optometry has earned the trust and respect of the public and deserves the responsibility afforded dentistry and advanced nurse practitioners.

In Alaska, the public has access to optometrists who responsibly and professionally prescribe medications on a daily basis that include antibiotics, steroids, antivirals including glaucoma medications while providing the latest in quality optometric eye care services to their patients. HB 103 will insure this access in Alaska continues.

Optometry is truly the "general practitioner" of eye care throughout Alaska. Optometrists evaluate patients and decide what to treat and when to refer for specialty ophthalmological care. HB 103 will not change that.

Ophthalmologists are an important and valued provider of specialty medical and surgical eye care services in Alaska. HB 103 will not change that.

Optometrists receive referrals from general medical doctors and internists to evaluate for and treat eye disease. Even though the internist is a "medical doctor" and may have had 12-14 years of education, they refer to the optometrist who has the training and expertise in eye care.

In closing, I urge your support of HB 103 so Alaskans have continued access to advances in technology and optometric education and training as taught in the accredited optometric colleges throughout the United States.

Sincerely,

Steve Dobson, O.D.
Immediate Past President, Alaska Optometric Association

Doniece Gott

From: Nicole Berhow <nberhow@gci.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 07, 2017 8:26 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Cc: AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com
Subject: Support HB 103!!!!

Hello Senators,

The opposition is running a shameful misleading campaign to scare the public to oppose this bill. Please don't fall for these scare tactics. HB 103 allows optometrists to practice at the level of our education and training, nothing more. Optometrists have doctorates plus 1-2 years optional residency. It is insulting that the opposition states that Optometry cannot be trusted to have board autonomy like the other health professions. It is time to update an old Alaska optometry law. Please support HB 103.

Thank you for your time,

Nicole L Berhow, OD

Doniece Gott

From: Robert Eachus <robert.eachus@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 07, 2017 1:25 PM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Subject: Please support HB103!

Hmm lots of fear mongering...

Please pass HB103 that allows computers to perform surgery and are less error prone than human surgeons and will bring to cost of seeing clearly down.

Doniece Gott

From: Roger <racquist@gci.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 07, 2017 6:47 PM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Subject: Please Support HB103

Dear Senator MacKinnon,

I would like to express my support for House Bill 103. This bill will improve licensure and management of the optometry profession within Alaska and bring it in line with other professions in our state. It will allow the Optometry Board to effectively respond to changes in education and standards of care while ensuring responsible and safe delivery of care to the people of our state. HB 103 specifically does not change current practice but only gives the Board proper authority to regulate the profession. As we've seen in the past, the opposition to this bill is misleading in saying that this bill would allow optometry to perform the types of complex surgery that their specialty does. Optometrists perform only minor procedures that they are fully trained and accredited to perform. They provide the vast majority of eye care in Alaska and have always done so in a safe and responsible manner.

I urge you to consider and approve House Bill 103.

Sincerely,

M. Roger Acquistapace, OD

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 9:23 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: FW: HB 103

From: Ed Bancroft [mailto:ebod@gci.net]
Sent: Sunday, April 30, 2017 6:53 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Cc: AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com
Subject: HB 103

Please vote in favor of HB103.

- HB 103 does not change current practice, it only gives the Board proper authority to regulate the profession, the same as dentists and nurse practitioners.
- HB 103 does not allow optometry to do anything beyond our education and training.
- The opposition is misleading in saying that we would be doing their specialty complex surgery, which we are not trained for and would not be allowed to do under HB 103. We only perform very minor procedures for which we are fully trained at accredited colleges & universities.
- Optometrists are educated identical to dentistry, with 8 years university and optional 1-2 years residency.
- Optometrists have never been a danger to the public, but provide the vast majority of primary eye care in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Edward Bancroft

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 1:10 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: FW: HB 103

-----Original Message-----

From: David Schmid [mailto:schmidlaw@gci.net]

Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 1:09 PM

To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 103

Dear Senators.

I write to urge your support for HB 103. Please recognize the opposition to this bill for what it is-----a simple turf protection effort by Ophthalmologists worried about nothing more than their own economic self-interest. The alleged concern of Ophthalmologists for the public welfare in this matter is a sad, patent and merit-less ruse. Please do what is right for people of Alaska, the medical field of Optometry, and the Alaska legislature. Support HB 103 and allow the Optometric Board to regulate the practice of Optometry like ever other medical professional Board--such as dentists and nurse practitioners.

Thank you,

Dave Schmid

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David J. Schmid
Law Offices of David J. Schmid
2301 Loussac Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517
(907) 276-4335

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 2:14 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: FW: HB103

From: Angel Husher-Rodriguez [mailto:dr.husher@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 1:55 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB103

Good afternoon,

I hope this letter finds you well.

May I count on you to support HB 103? The opposition has been making false & misleading claims about optometry being a danger to the public.

To become an optometrist, I earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology at Hawaii Pacific University in 2008 and then went on to earn a doctorate in Optometry at the University of Missouri-Saint Louis in 2013. My education and my fellow optometry colleagues' education is similar to the education pathway of a dentist. We attend 8 years of university and then can proceed to an optional 1-2 year residency.

I moved to Alaska to deliver much needed eye care to the Native Alaskan population. As an optometrist, I do very little of what the ophthalmologists do. Ophthalmologists are the specialists like the cardiologists are to the family doctors, or oral surgeons are to general dentists. Optometrists and Ophthalmologists must work together to provide the best care possible for the Alaskan public. Because there are 160+ optometrists in the state compared to Ophthalmology's 24 or so, Optometrists treat the majority of primary eye care patients. We consistently refer patients to ophthalmologists when the patient needs specialty surgical skills.

The limited "ophthalmic surgery" that optometrists perform is minor and includes procedures such as foreign body removal and drilling rust out of corneas. This is very important especially for workers living in small towns and villages away from Anchorage, Wasilla, and Fairbanks where the majority of ophthalmologist practice. The limited "ophthalmic surgery" would also include injecting steroids into eyelid cysts which we have been thoroughly educated through school and continuing medical education course.

Ophthalmologists voice 2 concerns about Optometrists regulating their own profession: Optometry is a danger to the public & optometry has insufficient training - both of these concerns are false.

HB103 will allow Optometry's board to regulate its own profession. Optometry is the only medical profession in Alaska that doesn't allow its board to regulate its own. In the future as new technologies and drugs are developed, the board can determine if optometrists are adequately trained, qualified and able to provide safe and effective care without having to resort to statute change for routine regulatory issues.

Please support this bill. HB 103 will control costs and improve access to eye care for Alaskans. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your time and efforts to improve the quality of life for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,
Angel M. Husher-Rodriguez, O.D.

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Angel Husher-Rodriguez, OD

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2017 9:14 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: FW: HB 103

From: Brannon Mills [mailto:drmills@akwestvalleyvision.com]
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 5:18 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Cc: AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com
Subject: HB 103

Good evening to our elected officials,

I am writing to inform you of my personal interest and support of HB 103. This bill provides no additional modality of practice beyond what I am personally educated and trained for. Contrary to the disingenuous 'warnings' that you may be hearing from opposition, it will not give me or my colleagues the authority to do 'complex surgery'. Nor will it endanger the public in any way. In fact, my profession of optometry is one of the safest and traditionally most conservative of all the health care provider groups.

Optometry provides the overwhelming majority of primary eye care both in this state and nationally. What this bill does is create a basis for oversight similar to what dentists currently have. This is a fair comparison as dentistry and optometry require a similar amount of education and training when earning their doctorates and passing national regulatory exams for practice. In fact, nurse practitioners currently have a similar method for board oversight to what is proposed for us in HB 103, and they have less education and training than does optometry.

This bill is rooted in common sense and is good policy for the people of Alaska. I strongly urge you to support HB 103. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brannon Mills OD

Fairbanks, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2017 9:07 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: FW: Please support HB 103 Optometry

-----Original Message-----

From: Denise Thanepohn [mailto:dlthanepohn@gci.net]

Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 11:48 PM

To: Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please support HB 103 Optometry

I'd like to ask for your support of HB 103. This allows the Board of Optometry to regulate our profession, just like dentists and nurse practitioners do.

Optometrists provide the vast majority of the primary eye care in the State of Alaska, and often are the only eye care providers in the more rural areas.

We have 8 years of university education and an optional 1-2 years of residency. This is identical to dentists. We are required to pass a national board which is lengthy and rigorous before practicing.

There seems to be misinformation going around about us wanting to do complex ocular surgery and this is not the case. We only perform very minor procedures for which we are fully trained at accredited colleges and universities.

Thank you very much for your time and I would appreciate your support for this bill.

Sincerely,
Dr. Denise Thanepohn
Alaska Eye Care

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: FW: Please Support HB 103!

From: Adam Huff [mailto:doctorhuff@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Support HB 103!

Dear Alaska State Senators,

Please support HB 103, it will save taxpayer money and will allow greater access of eye care to Alaskans. You may have heard false claims in from opposing smear campaigns stating that we are "a danger to the public" or we will be performing "surgery with knives and scalpels" that we are unqualified to perform. This is just not true. We are trained in all areas of primary eye care, including minor procedures such as removing rust from corneas. We are not trying to perform surgery that we are not trained in.

As Optometrists, we must go to school for 8 years (similar to dentistry), and we are highly trained in many areas of eye care. We treat the vast majority of Alaskans, and we refer patients to surgeons when surgery is indicated. This will not change, and just like primary care physicians rely on surgeons and specialists we will continue to refer patients to eye specialists.

This bill will merely allow our board to regulate our profession just as Dental Boards and Nurse Practitioner boards are able to self-regulate. This will allow us to more easily adapt to changes in technology and standard practices in the future without waiting for expensive and time-consuming legislation that costs taxpayers money and deprives them of care. Thanks so much for taking the time to read this, and please support primary eye care in Alaska and vote yes on HB103!

Sincerely,

Adam Huff, O.D.
Northern Lights Eye Care
Anchorage, AK

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 9:26 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: FW: Support message for HB103/SB36

-----Original Message-----

From: John Matheson [mailto:jmatheso@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 6:26 PM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support message for HB103/SB36

Dear Senator MacKinnon,

I am requesting your support and yes vote for moving SB36/HB103 "An Act relating to the practice of optometry."

The Optometry board should be allowed to manage Optometry in Alaska just like advanced practice nursing and dentistry do their professions without placing everything they do in the cumbersome and expensive legislative process.

I know you are likely in receipt of scare tactic messages and lobbying from those opposed to the bill in the advanced medical profession which is being done under the guise of patient safety. Note how many of those opposing represent national interests. The American Medical Association is on record opposing the expansion of scope by ALL allied health professions, i.e, non MD's, and as such have opposed all bills relating to Optometry, chiropractic, dentistry, advance practitioner nurses, nurse anesthetists, podiatrists and psychologists over the last several decades. As a family member of a practicing Optometrist I have watched them for years fight the legislative battles to allow them to practice to the scope of their training and education. Every time it costs thousands of hours of their and your time to fight the AMA "turf protecting" lobby to make these changes in legislation thus delaying the ability to provide appropriate treatment to Alaskans at reduced cost. I know the supporters must still appreciate your leadership in moving the bill out of the Finance committee last year.

As was stated in a previous battle between another profession on this subject:

"These battles are not going away, and the challenge for professions is to accept that we are going to have overlapping scopes in some practices. We should be using every resource to its optimum to provide health care to everyone possible at the lowest cost possible.

And it boils down to: If a professional can demonstrate they have the judgment, competence and skill to provide certain services, they should be able to do that."

Thank you for your service and consideration.

John Matheson
jmatheso@gmail.com

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Wednesday, May 03, 2017 9:10 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: FW: Support of HB 103

From: bricin@aol.com [mailto:bricin@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 03, 2017 7:58 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support of HB 103

Dear Senator,

I am writing to respectfully request your support for HB 103. I've been an Optometrist in Anchorage for 21 years, including 4 years in the Army. I am becoming more and more frustrated with explaining to my patients that HB 103 is not about Optometrists performing surgery. I have a great respect for the Ophthalmologists that work in our community but am tired of them making false claims about the purpose behind HB 103.

HB 103 is not about surgery, it's about the Optometry Board regulating our profession based on our training and education, just like most other medical professions. I look at my profession as a primary care eye doctor. I practice within my comfort level and education and refer to the proper specialist. HB 103 allows us to practice according to our education without constantly having to go to the state for approval.

HB103 is also about access to care. Optometrists are available in significantly more communities in Alaska than Ophthalmologists. Allowing us to practice to the fullest level of our education and training would allow for quicker care for patients in communities not served by Ophthalmology.

Thank you for your time and support.

Respectfully,

Brian Cin, OD
Adventures In Eye Care
6901 DeBarr Road, Suite 1C
Anchorage, AK 99504
907-333-6040

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 9:20 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: FW: Support HB 103

From: Tina Lam [mailto:tina1999@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 30, 2017 11:22 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB 103

I am an Alaska-born optometrist and returned back to my home state to practice my profession, Optometry. I currently practice in Anchorage for the past 13 years. I went to school for 8 years, which included receiving a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science degree from Texas A&M University and Doctor of Optometry from the University of Houston. Our education is similar to dentistry, with 8 years of university and optional 1-2 years of residency.

HB 103 does not allow optometry to do anything beyond our education and training.

I take personal offense to the opposition misleading the public by saying that we would be doing their specialty complex surgery, which we are not trained for and would not be allowed to do under HB103. We only perform minor procedures, like removing corneal and conjunctival foreign bodies, for which we are fully trained at accredited colleges. Some of my most grateful patients are the ones who come in to have a piece of metal removed from the cornea. They are in such pain and need to be seen right away.

Optometrists have never been a danger to the public, but provide the vast majority of primary eye care in Alaska.

HB103 does not change current practice, it only gives the Board proper authority to regulate our profession the same as dentists and nurse practitioners.

I urge you to support HB103.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christina Lam, OD

Doctor of Optometry

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 9:20 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: FW: On behalf of Dr. William Faulkner, Please support HB 103

From: Elizabeth Stevens [mailto:alaskaoptometricassociation@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 7:29 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Subject: On behalf of Dr. William Faulkner, Please support HB 103

Good Morning,

Dr. William Faulkner, O.D. asked me to forward his letter to you:

Please support HB 103. I've been practicing Optometry in Alaska since 1976 (getting to be a little bit of a dinosaur !). Through the years, our organization has needed to enhance our capabilities in order to take better care of our patients. On each occasion, our opponents have been 'Chicken Littles', proclaiming that 'the sky is falling'. Well, the sky has not fallen, the sun seems to come up each day and Optometrists are taking better care of their patient's visual needs. Please support this legislation, everything will be OK (!)

Thank you.
William Faulkner, O.D.

Thank you,
Elizabeth E. Stevens

--
Elizabeth E. Stevens
Executive Director

Alaska Optometric Association
3705 Arctic Boulevard, #675
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
907-770-3777

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 9:19 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: FW: HB 103 Optometry - Please Support

From: Amber Mayberry [mailto:mayberry.amber@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 7:36 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Cc: alaskaoptometricassociation@gmail.com
Subject: HB 103 Optometry - Please Support

Good morning Senators,

My name is Amber Mayberry and I'm an optometrist in Wasilla, Alaska. I am contacting you to ask for your support for House Bill 103. I know many people are worried about the bill but it **does not allow optometry to do anything beyond our education and training**. HB 103 does not change current practice, it only gives the board proper authority to regulate the profession, (the same as dentists and nurse practitioners). Some minor procedures are already within the current scope of optometric training and education. In states like Kentucky and Oklahoma optometrists are already able to perform small laser procedures and small lump and bump removals from the eyelid which currently is and has been **taught in accredited optometry schools across the nation**. If the state of Alaska wants to be able to have the best chances in recruiting new optometrists, we can't limit their knowledge and skills when it can be used to provide better care for Alaskans.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Amber Mayberry, OD

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 9:19 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: FW: HB 103

From: James Taylor [mailto:james.taylor@tananachiefs.org]
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 7:38 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 103

Please disregard alternative facts presented by the medical community and vote yes on this bill.

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 9:16 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: FW: SUPPORT of HB103

From: Clint H. A. Lentfer, MBA [mailto:clint@akacg.com]

Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 9:00 AM

To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>

Cc: MBA Clint H. A. Lentfer <clint@akacg.com>

Subject: SUPPORT of HB103

I am in 100% support of HB 103.

House Bill 103 has passed the House - do the right thing and pass this bill as well! Thanks!

Clint H. A. Lentfer, MBA
Alaska Appraisal & Consulting Group, LLC
907.677.7701 w
907.240.1700 c
www.akacg.com



Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 9:23 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: FW: Support HB Bill 103

From: Nate Frank [mailto:nathanfrank81@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 30, 2017 8:00 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HB Bill 103

My name is Nathan Frank, OD, and I am writing to ask for your support of HB 103, which will allow the state board of optometry to regulate the profession of optometry for the safety of all Alaskans.

There has been little mention of what an optometrist undergoes to earn their Doctorate of Optometry degree. I'd like to provide a brief synopsis of my background to help you understand my point of view. I attended four years of undergraduate education, followed by four years of optometry school, and finally completed an accredited residency affiliated with The Johns Hopkins Hospital in order to specialize in Ocular Disease. In addition to this formal education, I have lectured at numerous continuing education classes, attended hundreds of hours of continuing education, and frequently spend my free time reading the newest and most up-to-date eye care research. Additionally, I continue to train internal medicine and family practice residents at my current practice, Ophthalmic Associates—where I work as the only optometrist alongside four ophthalmologists. As you can extrapolate from my professional experience, optometrists are physicians (as defined and accepted as under Federal Medicare law) and should possess the right to treat patients accordingly.

As a resident and practicing optometrist, I've worked directly with ophthalmology in a group setting at three different private practices spanning Maryland and Alaska. In this time, I've learned the patient benefits most when optometrists can practice to the fullest

extent of their knowledge and training. Passing HB 103 will allow optometrists to maximize their skill set and provide the best care to patients. I would like to point out that HB 103 does not authorize optometrists to do any procedures; it only gives the state board authority to regulate the profession for the safety of the public. I am not writing because I wish to perform surgeries, I am writing to you simply to ask you to pass this bill to ensure I can practice within my realm of expertise. Just as a family practice physician would not perform open-heart surgery or an occupational therapist would not diagnose a congenital deformity, optometrists are not attempting to do anything beyond their scope of education and training, as is clearly stated in HB 103.

Passing HB 103 will immensely benefit the greater population of Alaska. Not only will the multidisciplinary nature of eye care continue to flourish, but also Alaska citizens will experience increased access to affordable eye care. Optometrists provide the vast majority of eye care throughout Alaska, including remote towns and villages. In addition to increased access to eye care, the population will experience reduced costs when most eye care can be provided locally by optometrists.

By allowing optometrists to effectively regulate their scope of practice by passing HB 103, you will improve patient eye care in Alaska. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Nathan Frank, OD

Optometrist, Ophthalmic Associates

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 9:21 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: FW: Please Support HB 103

-----Original Message-----

From: gary [mailto:garykjomeod@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, April 30, 2017 10:01 PM

To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Dennis Egan <Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Support HB 103

Dear Senators:

Please support HB 103

HB 103 does not allow optometry to do anything beyond our education and training.

HB 103 only give the Optometry Board proper authority to regulate our own profession as do nurse practitioners and dentists.

The opposition is giving misleading statements claiming that we would be doing their specialty complex surgery. The bill would only allow us to do procedures for which we are fully trained and taught by accredited colleges and approved by the Optometry Board.

Thank you for your support.

Gary Kjome, Optometrist
Anchorage, AK

Sent from my iPad

Doniece Gott

From: Megan Scott <little_meg13@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 10:01 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 103

Dear Senators,

Please support HB 103. As an administrative assistant in an optometry office in Anchorage I am urging you to vote yes on HB 103.

Thank you for your time and service,

Megan Cate

907-301-4423

Doniece Gott

From: Timothy Burr <ak.tim.burr@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 10:25 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: House Bill 103

Dear Senators,

I am writing in support of HB 103. Optometrists provide vitally needed access to eye care throughout the state of Alaska. This bill clearly states that they are trying to regulate their own board, nothing more.

Sincerely,

Timothy Burr

Doniece Gott

From: Larry Coon <lcoon@eyeclinicfbks.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 12:01 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: HB 103

Please support HB103

Doniece Gott

From: Benjamin Crawford <drcrawford@accuratevisionclinic.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 9:30 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please Support HB 103

Dear Senators,

I am an optometrist in Anchorage and I am asking for your support of HB 103. This common-sense bill simply allows the Board of Optometry autonomy, just like other primary care professions such as Dentists and Nurse Practitioners.

Thank you for your time and service,

Benjamin Crawford, O.D.

Accurate Vision Clinic

We've moved!

3401 Minnesota Dr., Suite 200

Anchorage, AK 99503

Office 907-272-9800 | Fax 907-277-1398 | Mobile 907-717-1038

[email](#) | [website](#) | [facebook](#) | [linkedin](#)

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Doniece Gott

From: Yee <yee-kormoua@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 10:08 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please support HB 103

Dear Senators,

Please support HB 103. As an optician at an optometry office in Anchorage I am asking you to vote yes on HB 103.

Thank you for your time and service,

Yee Vang

Doniece Gott

From: Brooke Cook <brooke.cook@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 11:44 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please support HB 103

Dear Representatives,

I am not an optometrist but from what I know HB 103 would just allow the board of optometry to be treated like nurse practitioners and dentists. Please support this bill to allow them the opportunity to be treated like other professionals.

Kind regards,

Brooke Cook

Doniece Gott

From: Dennis Swarner <keeneye.ak@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 12:15 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Please support HB103

I ask you to support HB103.

There has been much negative and false claims by those opposing this bill. The bill does not authorize Optometrists to do surgery. It removes the legislature from determining the scope of practice of Optometrists, turning it over to the Alaska Board of Optometry, just as the dentist, nurse practitioners, and even MD's boards are allowed to do. We're simply asking for parity with the other learned professions.

Thank you for your support, Dennis A Swarner, OD

--

I Wish You Enough!!!

Doniece Gott

From: Cynthia McCaw <cynmccaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 103

- Optometrists provide the majority of eye care in Alaska.
- Optometry should have board autonomy as the other health professions.
- HB 103 allows optometrists to practice at the level of their education and training, nothing more.
- Optometrists have 8 years of university plus 1-2 years optional residency.
- HB 103 updates the very old Alaska optometry law.
- Optometry should be trusted as other health professions are.
- The opposition is running a shameful misleading campaign to scare the public to oppose this bill. Please don't fall for these scare tactics.

Working in Optometry I feel this is very important.
Cyndie McCaw

Doniece Gott

From: John Demske <johndemske@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 1:59 PM
To: Sen. Peter Micciche
Cc: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Please support HB 103

Hello Senator Micciche & fellow Senators,

I'm sending another email regarding HB 103 to inform you that the opposition to this bill has once again started a media smear that is full of hyperbole, innuendo & lies.

This bill will not change a thing in my daily practice. And I sincerely doubt that any of the optometry schools are going to change their curriculum just because Alaska's board of optometry has autonomy. That is all that this bill does...it gives autonomy to the optometry board.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

John Demske, O.D.
Soldotna, Alaska

Practicing optometry in Alaska since 1978

Doniece Gott

From: Sarah Wentz <sarahwentz6@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 2:37 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Senator.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go

- Optometrists have 8 years of university plus 1-2 years optional residency.
- HB 103 updates the very old Alaska optometry law.
- Optometrists provide the majority of eye care in Alaska.

Doniece Gott

From: Amber Cragun <amber.cragun@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 2:46 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please support HB 103

- Optometry should have board autonomy as the other health professions.
- Optometrists have 8 years of university plus 1-2 years optional residency.
- HB 103 updates the very old Alaska optometry law.

Doniece Gott

From: Dawn Harms <dawnlynnharms@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 3:04 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please SUPPORT HB 103

Dear Senators,

You will be asked to vote on HB 103 in the very near future, and I wanted write to introduce myself, and give my perspective on this bill. My name is Dawn Harms. I am a Doctor of Optometry and I have been practicing optometry in Eagle River, Alaska for fourteen years. I was born in Palmer, Alaska, and raised in Eagle River, Alaska. I attended Pacific University in Oregon, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Visual Sciences, and a Doctorate of Optometry. I am proud to be a Doctor of Optometry, and I am proud to have returned to my home state of Alaska to practice.

I am requesting your support for House Bill 103. HB 103 is a reasonable bill that will allow Alaskan Optometrists to provide the most up to date optometric care, WITHIN our scope of practice.

HB 103's primary intent is NOT to allow Optometrists to perform complex eye surgeries, but to establish laws authorizing the board optometry to license and regulate their own profession, as does other prescribing health professions such as medicine, nursing, and dentistry in the State of Alaska.

I feel the members of the house have been well educated on this bill, and I encourage you to discuss with them, what led the MAJORITY of them to support our bill. I feel that Representative Dan Sadler would be a good resource to lend an ear, as I feel that he has considered both sides of this bill, and is well informed that this bill will extend the benefits of quality, reasonably priced and accessible eye care to more Alaskans.

The opposition wants you to think that this bill will allow Optometrists to perform surgery optometrists are not trained to do, but this is NOT TRUE. The bill states optometrists cannot do surgery unless it is a procedure that is taught in accredited optometry universities and approved by the state optometry board in regulation. The bill is very restrictive to the very minor procedures that optometry is thoroughly trained to do as it is written in the bill.

I feel that the job of the Legislature, in relation to this bill, is to create the framework that authorizes professional boards to establish the parameters of practice. This bill will allow the Legislators to do that job, to establish that framework, that is much needed. The framework will allow the regulation of Optometry in Alaska to be done in a more efficient manner. The Framework needed is HB 103. Please allow this framework to be built, VOTE YES on HB 103.

Thank you for your support on HB 103.

Sincerely,

Dawn Harms, O.D.
Optometrist

Doniece Gott

From: Jodi Miura <customerservice@eyecareexcellence.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 9:32 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please support HB 103

EYECARE EXCELLENCE PC

John T. Shank, O.D., F.A.A.O

David J. Holdgrafer, O.D.

3450 E. Rezanof Drive

Kodiak, Alaska 99615

Optometrist provide much of the eye health care in Alaska, it is my hope that HB103 will pass because, HP103 Updates the very old optometry law and optometry should have the same board autonomy as other health providers. Please take these facts into consideration and make your decision based on facts and not the opposition's smear campaign.

Thank you for your time

Elizabeth Hubbard

Patient Care Coordinator

EYECARE EXCELLENCE PC

3450 E. Rezanof Drive

Kodiak, Alaska 99615

P:907-486-5504 / F: 907-486-6577

www.customerservice@eyecareexcellence.com

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Doniece Gott

From: Kim Hancox <kim@entalaska.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 7:43 AM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Subject: HB103

The Alaska State House passed HB103. This bill will allow an unprecedented expansion of practice for optometrists in Alaska- it will allow them to perform just about any ophthalmic surgery they wish, effectively lowering the standard of eye care in Alaska. No other state in the U.S. has passed such a blank slate for optometrists. Please reconsider this and keep our Alaskan's safe!

Create a great day~

Kim Hancox, MBA

Administrator



Alaska Center for Ear Nose and Throat

3841 Piper Street, Suite T- 230

Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Phone 907.279.8800 Fax 907.279.8810

Cell 907.231.9825

www.ACENTALaska.com

Doniece Gott

From: Adinda Demske <adindademske@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 2:11 AM
To: Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Please support the optometry bill (SB 36 / HB 103)

Dear Senators,

Please support the optometry bill SB36 / HB 103. I hope to add more context to this topic.

Optometrists, in addition to training to correct visual acuity, also have trained to diagnose and treat ocular disease, including relevant pharmacology. They currently prescribe medications. The statements that I am hearing from the opposition, that only 15-hours of training would then qualify an optometrist to perform surgery, are misrepresentations and should be clarified with some context from the bill (AS 08.72.181). These references of hours are all in the reference to continuing education for maintaining a license, not surgical training. (1) 8 hours is required specifically for pharmaceuticals. (2) 7 hours of continuing education is for injection of nontopical pharmaceuticals (not injections to any components of the globe.) These specifications are in the context of the minimum 72 hours of general optometry continuing education, of which 48 must include pathology and pharmacology. I do not interpret this language to suggest that surgery is licensed after 7 hours of training. Also, if optometrists opt to prescribe controlled substances in their practice, they must first obtain a DEA license.

A relevant portion of text that precedes the excerpt above defining ophthalmic surgery is important to consider. See below of Sec 5 from HB 103

Sec. 5. AS 08.72 is amended by adding a new section to read: **Sec. 08.72.278. Limitation on practice.** (a) A licensee may perform the services of optometry as defined in AS 08.72.300 only if the services are within the scope of the licensee's education, training, and experience as established by regulations adopted by the board.

(b) A LICENSEE MAY NOT PERFORM OPHTHALMIC SURGERY unless the procedure is
(1) within the scope of the licensee's education and training from an accredited school of optometry; and

(2) authorized by regulations adopted by the board.

(c) In this section, "ophthalmic surgery" means an invasive procedure in which human tissue is cut, ablated, or otherwise penetrated by incision, laser, or other means to treat diseases of the human eye, alter or correct refractive error, or alter or enhance cosmetic appearance; "ophthalmic surgery" does not include the procedure described under AS 08.72.273. [08.72.273. **Removal of foreign bodies.** A licensee may remove superficial foreign bodies from the eye and its appendages. This section is not intended to permit a licensee to perform invasive surgery.]

I suspect that those opposing this bill are concerned by the word "unless" in line (b) above and its trailing clause (1) within the scope...of training...from an accredited school of optometry. I offer this: the vast majority of optometrists were not trained in surgical procedures and thus would not suddenly be performing surgical procedures upon the passing of this bill. I understand that this clause enables the statutes to accommodate the future advancements in optometry training – as any of us would expect in our own respective fields. I do not

interpret the above to allow surgery without formal training. I also understand that the definition of ophthalmic surgery was incorporated to appease opponents of these legislative efforts.

My father, an optometrist practicing for 43 years including 39 years in Alaska, explained that this is a decades-long issue (as you are likely aware). The greater point of this issue is that of **professional autonomy for the practice of optometry**. I understand that the medical, dental and nursing boards all have language in the state statutes that allow them to adopt regulations for their respective professions. If you care to read, item 6) of AS 08.72.300 is the proposed language to allow the board of optometry to regulate their profession – rather than undergoing the entire legislative process for issues that are more appropriately regulated by a governing board. Indeed, this is how other boards regulate their professions, but is still subject to legislative approval. I found nearly identical language in the nursing statutes.

Before you oppose or approve this bill, first please consider: (1) the content of the bill, (2) all other governing boards of medical professions (medical, nursing and dental boards) have autonomy to regulate their own profession, except optometry and (3) mutual respect among medical professionals is also important for the safety patients. That includes respecting the autonomy among those professionals whom share in patient care. Obstruction of professional autonomy is then the opposite: disrespect. This is important to me both as an Alaska resident and a medical student (a future physician) currently doing my clinical training, where I am learning that effective patient care is shared patient care. Optometrists will continue to refer their patients with ocular pathology in need of specialized ophthalmic care to the capable and surgically trained ophthalmologists in our state; I see no indication that this bill will change that arrangement of shared eye care.

Respectfully,
Adinda Demske

Doniece Gott

From: matthew guess <guess.matthew@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 11:53 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: In Opposition of HB 103/SB 36

Dear Senators:

I'm writing you this letter in opposition of SB 36/HB 103 relating to the practice of Optometry in the State of Alaska. This bill will give the Board of Optometry sole and full authority to grant it's members the right to perform surgery for which they have received no formal training.

I am a board certified Ophthalmologist who has been practicing in Alaska since 2009. In 2013, I found myself in a similar situation that the Optometrists currently find themselves. I was interested in performing specific surgical treatments for diseases of the eye, which included injections of medications into the eye and laser treatments of the eye for which I didn't have the necessary training to do safely and correctly. In my situation, I chose to apply to and was accepted into a two year vitreo-retinal surgical fellowship, which required moving myself and my family to Ohio for two years. The Optometrists in Alaska have no such option given that there are no surgical fellowships that exist in Optometry since Optometry is not a surgical specialty.

During my vitreo-retinal fellowship between 2014 and 2016, I worked an average of 60 hours a week including nights and weekends. I interacted with well over 10,000 patients with retinal disease and performed thousands of retinal surgical procedure both in the clinic and operating room. I trained under the mentorship of 9 vitreo-retinal specialists who collectively had over 120 years in clinical practice. During my fellowship, **I directly supervised and trained Optometry residents at the VA Eye Clinic in Cincinnati, OH** who were doing a one year Optometry residency at the VA after competing four years of Optometry school. Under my direct supervision, the Optometry residents assisted in the retina clinic with the workup and diagnosis of patients. **At no time did an Optometry resident ever perform a surgical procedure in the clinic or in the operating room nor was that expected of them to learn. They did not spent time observing lasers or injections being performed. I nor any of my mentors gave lectures on how to perform surgical procedures to the Optometry residents. The laser and injection procedures in the retina clinic and surgical procedures in the operating room were performed by me or by the Ophthalmology residents under my direct supervision.** This system worked well for the Veterans with the Optometrist and Ophthalmologist working together to see patients and diagnose eye disease and then when necessary having a qualified Ophthalmologist perform any surgical care (eye injections, lasers, incisional surgery). This is essentially the same as the model for eye care that currently exists in Alaska.

As written, Senate Bill 36/HB 103 will change this model by allowing Optometrists to give themselves ever expanding surgical privileges and ultimately circumvent the training that I and my colleagues have undergone to provide a high level of safe and skilled surgical care for the eye diseases we see in our clinic on a daily basis. No Optometrist currently practicing in the State of Alaska has undergone the training to safely and correctly perform injections directly into eyes, lasers into eyes or any more extensive surgical procedures and weekend courses won't make them qualified for these surgical procedures.

In summary, SB 36/HB 103 should either be rejected in it's entirety or be amended to include a definition of eye surgeries to exclude from the Optometrist scope of practice. Again, there is no substitute for the extensive training that I and my colleagues have received, which allows us to appropriately and safely treat eye disease with our surgical expertise. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Matthew G. Guess, M.D.

Alaska Retinal Consultants

3500 LaTouche St, Suite 250

Anchorage, AK 99508

Doniece Gott

From: Andrea Eberle <eberleeyecare@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 10:01 PM
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 103

Dear Senator,

Please support HB 103. Optometrist complete 8 years of University plus an addition 1-2 year optional residency. Optometry should be trusted as the other health professions. HB 103 updates the current very old Alaska Optometry law and allows board autonomy as the other health professions.

HB 103 does not do what opponents say it does, it only allows optometrists to practice at the level of their education and training, nothing more.

Please trust Optometrist to continue to provide the vast majority of eye care for the state by passing HB 103

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrea Eberle

Doniece Gott

From: Laura Sarcone <sarconecnm@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 9:57 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 103

Dear Senators:

I am an advanced practice registered nurse. I am writing in support of optometrists, as fellow health care professionals.

HB 103 allows optometrists, who provide the majority of eye care in Alaska, to practice at the level of their education and training.

HB 103 provides for regulation of optometry practice by optometry professionals, who know their practice best.

I support affording my optometry colleagues the recognition and respect of board autonomy.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 103.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion on this matter. Feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Laura Sarcone, APRN, CNM
907-230-7068 (cell)

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit."

Doniece Gott

From: Ginny Shank <ginny.shank@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 9:58 PM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Fwd: Please vote YES HB 103

Please vote in favor of HB 103. This bill just allows optometrists to do what the Board of Optometry allows them to practice at the level of their education and training, nothing more. Optometrists in many Alaskan locations are the primary Eyecare health providers. Please help them to do their job. Please do not be swayed by the inflammatory statements made by the opposition.

Thank you,
Ginny Shank

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Richard McCartan <rmccartan109@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 9:43 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 103

Please support HB 103.

- Optometry should be trusted as the other health professions.
- HB 103 does not do what opponents say it does, it only allows optometrists to practice at the level of their education and training, nothing more.
- Optometry should have board autonomy as the other health professions..
- Optometrists provide the majority of eye care in Alaska.

Thank you.

Dick & Mickey McCartan
10976 Kenai Spur
Kenai, AK 99611

Doniece Gott

From: kristi vaillancourt <akprissykrissy@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 9:29 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please support HB 103

- Optometry should be trusted as the other health professions.
- Optometry should have board autonomy as the other health professions.
- The opposition is running a shameful misleading campaign to scare the public to oppose this bill

Doniece Gott

From: DEBORAH KALAKIS <debkalakis@prodigy.net>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 8:48 PM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Subject: Please support HB 103

Please support HB 103, and update our laws with respect to the Optometrist profession. I have read the bill, and the changes it proposes make perfect sense to me. I say this as both a licensed professional CPA, and a consumer of ophthalmologic services. In this day and age of skyrocketing medical prices, the option of obtaining professional care from a qualified provider whose services are more affordable than other options, is one I appreciate. HB 103 does not lower the standard of care provided, it expands the ability to provide medical care to a larger professional base. This directly benefits the patient.

Sincerely,

Deborah Holmes

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: George Clark <gclark@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 8:13 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: HB 103

Dear sir, it has come to my attention that some ophthalmologists are running a shameful smear campaign to frighten the public, you may have seen or heard it, that is false & misleading, claiming optometrists would be doing mechanically invasive surgery on eyes which is untrue.

Please support HB 103

George Clark

Anchorage, Ak

Doniece Gott

From: Sharon Starry <starry44@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 9:39 PM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Subject: Please Support HB 103

I am contacting you to ask for your support of HB 103. Following are some key points to take into consideration.

HB 103 would update the very old Alaska optometry law.

HB 103 does not do what opponents say it does. It only allows optometrists to practice at the level of their education and training. It allows them to do nothing more.

Optometrists have 8 years of university plus 1-2 years of optional residency.

Optometry should be trusted as the other health professions.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sharon Starry

Sharon
Sent from my iPad

Doniece Gott

From: Brian Chronister <bchronister62@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 9:13 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please support HB 103

Greetings,

I have lived in Alaska for over 60 years. I remember Anchorage High School downtown, when the parkstrip was the edge of town, and I lived in a residence on 8th and G (try to find one now.)

Over the years, I have needed every kind of medical care imaginable much of which was very limited in the early years. We often flew to Seattle for certain procedures.

It seems to me that the Ophthalmologists are still hoping to keep Alaskans in bondage to the "old days." I have found Optometrists to be excellent practitioners of eye care, well trained and professional. I'd rather use one for routine eye care.

You and I know that the opponents are just hoping to hold onto their money.

Alaskans need access to the care supplied by this bill. Please support it.

Sincerely,
Brian Chronister

Doniece Gott

From: Mary Keen <mary.a.burr@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 8:40 PM
To: Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Pete Kelly
Subject: Fwd: Please Support HB 103

>
> I would respectfully ask you to support HB 103. I find it outrageous that an optometrist cannot make changes to their board regulations without going through the legislature, BUT all other medical professionals can write a prescriptions and can regulate their own boards like dentists, family docs, nurse practitioners, etc. So in my opinion it's pretty ridiculous that with all their education and training that they can't, which is where HB 103 comes in. HB 103 gives optometrists in Alaska the ability to regulate their own board.
>
> Given their education and training optometrists in Alaska should be able to regulate their own board and continue providing vitally needed eye care to the majority of Alaskans. Please support HB 103.
>
> Respectfully,
>
> Mary Keen
>
>

5-8-2017

This letter is to encourage you to support the passage of HB 103. Please let me tell you why.

I have the utmost respect for both ophthalmologist and optometrist.

They have both dedicated a big portion of their life attending undergraduate and graduate schools to serve the public.

I am very angry that the ophthalmologist association is running a totally untrue internet and radio smear campaign against optometrist and against HB 103.

The relationship is, much like a Medical general practitioner and a Specialist. They both have very important places.

Optometrists perform the bulk of the eye care, and refer all surgeries and very technical problems to ophthalmologist. It's hard to believe that the ophthalmologists have the gall to try and misled the public about HB 103.

HB 103 allows DR's of Optometry to practice what they have learned in a minimum of eight years of education at universities after high school

Optometrists serve a very valuable service in Alaska and deserve the respect that HB 103 gives them

Thank you for carefully studying this bill and hopefully you will agree with me.

Dennis Harms, 52 year resident of Eagle River/Chugiak, Alaska.

Doniece Gott

From: William Phillips <WPhillips@kenaitze.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 7:48 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please support HB 103

Please vote Yes on HB 103.

Thank You for your time and service.

Will Phillips OD

Optometry

Kenai, AK

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Doniece Gott

From: tammy pickett <tammypickett.ak@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 9:46 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: HB 103

Dear Senator,

I am writing to express my support for HB 103. As you know, optometrists provide the majority of eye care in Alaska. After 8 years of education, they are trained to do minor procedures and they refer more complex surgeries to specialists. I believe that optometrists should be allowed to practice at the level of their education and training. Optometry should have board autonomy as the other health professions. Please consider supporting this bill as it comes to a vote in the Senate.

Regards,
Tamara Pickett, MD

Doniece Gott

From: Brad Ewing <bradrewing@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson
Subject: HB103: Vote Yes

Please vote yes on HB103. I trust my optometrist and the optometry board to regulate optometry. Alaska needs to focus on efficiency and this will improve efficiency while not impacting the quality of care for me. My optometrist earned her doctorate from UC Berkeley and I trust her and the optometry board to regulate optometry.

Doniece Gott

From: Ronald Kichura <kichuraeye@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 12:21 AM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Subject: Please Support HB 103

Senator MacKinnon:

I am currently a staff civilian optometrist, credentialed at the 673rd Medical Group at JBER, where I provide eye care to the active duty family members, military retirees, and their family members, along with four other optometrists and two ophthalmologists. I have served in multiple modes of practice during my 32 year career: private solo optometric practice, group optometry practice, multi-disciplinary ophthalmology practices, vision center opticals, and as a credentialed military optometrist at three USAF hospitals. I served twenty years in the USAF as an optometrist, and finished my career serving as a Medical Group Commander for the Alaska Air National Guard in Anchorage. I retired from the USAF as a Colonel in 2013. In my experience as a USAF optometrist, optometry and ophthalmology is organizationally separate, and has been for years. Optometry practice as primary eye care providers as part of the Aerospace Medicine Squadron, and Ophthalmology is organizationally in a separate chain of command in the Medical Operations Squadron. Both professions are autonomous, and support each other efficiently and successfully, each profession contributing its expertise to the best overall eye care of the patient. This is EXACTLY how having two autonomous boards would operate in the State of Alaska with two self regulating, self-autonomous boards. It is already a model that has been time- proven to work best for both the interests of the patient, and the respective eye care professions. HB 103 will create this same model of success in the civilian medical eye care sector.

Optometrists deserve the same right to self regulation that other allied health professions such as dentists, and nurse practitioners currently enjoy. HB 103 ensures that optometrist will practice within the limits of their accredited training. There are other checks and balances beyond statute, that already currently exist that ensure that ALL eye care practitioners practice within their level of training and experience, and these checks and balances will be unaffected by the passage of HB 103. Presently, malpractice insurance companies will only insure practitioners against lawsuit if they practice within limits of their accredited training, experience, and state board licensure. Moral respect for the well being of a patient, and the code to "first do no harm" already puts a self-imposed limit on every healthcare provider to practice within the limits of their training, experience, and comfort zone. Finally, medical treatment facilities, such as the one I currently work in, or surgical treatment facilities, likewise will not allow practitioners clinical privileges to treat or perform surgery, if the practitioner cannot demonstrate to the facility credentialing committee that they have the necessary training AND experience to perform those requested privileges.

Optometrists have an excellent safety record, as evidenced by some of the lowest malpractice insurance rates among healthcare professionals. The groups which oppose HB 103, and the right for optometrists to self-regulate, and practice freely within the limits of their training, are motivated, in my opinion, not by a concern for public safety, but rather, from an unfounded fear that ophthalmology will lose market share in the practice of their medical-surgical specialty, or that

patients will have difficulty determining which providers provide the best eye care. Rest assured, the same forces that currently guide patients who seek out the best providers of eyecare- namely professional reputation in the community, and colleague referrals will continue to operate after HB 103 passes. In my experience, Optometry and Ophthalmology has always worked well together when the providers of each respective profession recognized that they were interdependent, both unique, and complimentary, and when they both practiced synergistically in their respective zones of expertise, interacting in a professional, respectful, amicable, and collegial manner. When the contentious dust over HB 103 settles, and it passes with your support, we will all continue the noble work of providing the very best eye care that we can to our patients. Please support the passage of HB 103.

Very Respectfully,
Ronald M. Kichura, O.D.
9612 St George Circle
Eagle River, Alaska
907 720-7908

Doniece Gott

From: Clint H. A. Lentfer, MBA <clint@akacg.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 8:17 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: YES on HB 103 - PLEASE SUPPORT HB 103

- Optometrists provide the majority of eye care in Alaska.
- **Optometry should have board autonomy as the other health professions.**
- HB 103 allows optometrists to practice at the level of their education and training, nothing more.
- **Optometrists have 8 years of university plus 1-2 years optional residency.**
- HB 103 updates the very old Alaska optometry law.
- Optometry should be trusted as other health professions are.
- The opposition is running a shameful misleading campaign to scare the public to oppose this bill. Please don't fall for these scare tactics.

Thank you, once again, for all you continue to do to support HB 103!

Clint H. A. Lentfer, MBA
Alaska Appraisal & Consulting Group, LLC
907.677.7701 w
907.240.1700 c
www.akacg.com



Doniece Gott

From: Naomi M. <naomi_mercado@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 10:19 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 103

- Optometrists provide the majority of eye care in Alaska.
- Optometry should have board autonomy as the other health professions.
- HB 103 allows optometrists to practice at the level of their education and training, nothing more.

Doniece Gott

From: ken stark <kenstark421@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 9:52 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 103

Optometry should be trusted as the other health professions

Optometrists provide the majority of eye care in Alaska

Thanks,
Ken Stark

Doniece Gott

From: Jared Kettler <jaredkettler@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 9:49 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 103

Good morning,

Please support HB 103. Optometrists have 8 years of university education plus 1-2 years of optional residency and provide the majority of eye care in Alaska. The bill does not do what opponents say it does (it only allows optometrists to practice at the level of their education and training, nothing more).

It will ultimately benefit all Alaskans!

Thank you for your YES vote,

Jared Kettler
Alaska resident & voter

Doniece Gott

From: Dr. Laura Kompkoff <drk@katmaieye.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 8:54 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 103

Dear Senators,

Please support HB 103 for the reasons listed below:

- Optometrists provide the majority of eye care in Alaska.
- Optometry should have board autonomy as other health professions.
- HB 103 allows optometrists to practice at the level of their education and training, nothing more. There will be oversight.
- Optometrists have 8 years of university plus 1-2 years optional residency.
- HB 103 updates the very old Alaska optometry law.

Laura Kompkoff, O.D.

Katmai Eye and Vision Center

Katmaieye.com

907-334-3937

Doniece Gott

From: Margorie Keene <margorie_k@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 9:50 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please Support HB 103

Dear Senators,

Please vote YES on HB 103. Our family has Optometrist brother and daughter-in-law. Optometrists have 8 years of university plus 1-2 years optional residency. Optometry should have board autonomy as the other health professions.

Thank you , once again, for all you continue to do to support HB 103!

Sincerely,
Margorie Keene

Doniece Gott

From: Dr. Sheryl Lentfer <dr.slentfer@katmaieye.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 9:17 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: YES HB 103

Please Vote yes on HB 103...Our profession has been helping patients in Alaska and its rural villages since before my father, Dr. Falconer, was flying to the rural communities to provide eye care in 1964 through the mid 70's. Our profession is conservative by nature and has never practiced outside its scope of training. Alaskans from Juneau to Barrow have had their eye care delivered successfully and mostly by Optometrists, from at least the early 1960's. The opposition thinks that this will change overnight. We can look back on the history of RK (vision correction with incisions) and even LASIK (laser vision correction), in the early "experimental" years, when Alaskan surgeons were treating patients, sometime their corneas became unstable and patient went on to have corneal thinning, Ecthsia, that Optometrist have to manage for the patient's lifetime. We are mature and educated professionals and have a history of preserving the vision and eye health of Alaskan! Thank you for your time.

Sherry Lentfer, OD

Katmai Eye and Vision Center

Neuro Vision Performance Center

12570 Old Seward Hwy., Suite 104

Anchorage, Ak 99515

907 334-3937

907 885-2522 FAX

Katmaieye.com/Facebook: Katmai Eye and Vision Center

Doniece Gott

From: Ashley Kettler <akettlerod@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 3:51 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Please support HB 103

- Optometry should have board autonomy as the other health professions.
- The opposition is running a shameful misleading campaign to scare the public to oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Ashley Kettler O.D.

Doniece Gott

From: Philip Fontana <PFontana@lewisandlewis.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 4:13 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please support HB 103

Hi All,

Please support HB 103

This bill helps optometrists control their own board, with attorney general oversight, so they don't have to go to the legislature when there is a change in technology or standard-of-care.

Please support this bill.

Philip Fontana

President

907.743.1611 Direct

Lewis & Lewis

907.743.1600 Sales | 907.743.1640 Service

www.lewisandlewis.com



Doniece Gott

From: Kristen Tweedy <kristenatweedy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 3:03 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Please support HB 103, optometry

Dear Senator,

Hello, I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist and am writing you today in support of HB 103 regarding optometrists.

I completely understand optometric education and the scope of practice that optometrists may operate under. As an advanced practice nurse, I also understand the similarities between the rigors of education and training that advanced practice nurses and optometrists share and also understand that both are often misrepresented by organized medicine because it is not within their system of control.

With that being said, HB 103 does not allow optometry to do anything beyond their education and training. It does not change current practice, it simply allows the Board the proper authority to regulate the profession, which is the same as dentists and advanced practice nurses. The opposition is misleading and often states that optometrists would be doing specialty surgery, which is simply uninformed, unfounded, and untrue, as optometrists only perform minor procedures (for which they have been fully trained at accredited colleges to perform). HB 103 would not allow an expansion of scope of practice and would only allow optometrists to practice to their full capabilities for which they have been trained.

Lastly, optometrists have never been a danger to the public. They provide a vast majority of primary eye care in Alaska including under served and underrepresented populations for which without them they may not have access to proper care.

Thank you,
Kristen Tweedy, CRNA

Doniece Gott

From: alissa pempek <alissapempek@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 4:01 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: HB 103 Needs Support

Hey Alaskans!

Please don't fall for the scare tactics of the opposition, it is shameful what they are trying to do to frighten people. Optometrists have 8 years of university plus 1-2 years optional residency. They provide the majority of eye care in Alaska.

This is not only important for the elderly, but for the younger generation, especially for those that live in the villages or smaller communities with intermittent health care. Proper diagnosis, especially when it comes to sight, is extremely important and it should be done by properly trained professionals.

Thank you for your time.

Alissa Pempek

Doniece Gott

From: Rowena Rivera <rowena.r.rivera@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 3:49 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please support HB 103

Greetings Representative,

I'm writing in support of HB 103. HB 103 does not change the current practice of optometry and it does not allow optometrists to practice beyond their education and training. The bill allows the board to have proper authority over regulating the profession, the same as dentists and nurse practitioners. The opposition has presented misleading information reporting that, if the bill passed, optometrists would attempt specialty complex surgeries without proper training. Optometrists go through rigorous training identical to dentistry which includes 8 years of university with the option to do 1-2 years residency. HB 103 would not allow optometrists to perform any procedure that is not within their scope of practice.

Thank you for supporting HB 103,

Rowena Rivera, OD
Makar Eyecare, LLC

Doniece Gott

From: Alicia Froh <amouse82@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 4:33 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please support Optometry HB 103

I am writing to you today in support of HB103.

As a Dispensing Optician for the last 40 years, and former Chair of the Board of Dispensing Opticians, I have seen lots of legislative over site. Today more than ever we need to streamline that process to less impact the cost of state government. By passing HB103 that will be achieved .

I have listened to the testimony of several of the Doctors on both sides of this issue. I am appalled at the Ophthalmologists that feel it is necessary to use unfounded and untrue scare tactics. HB 103 will not let Optometrists do anything beyond their education or training. It will let them govern themselves just as the Boards of Medicine, Nursing, and Dentistry do now.

I cannot understand why the MD's feel it necessary to demean another profession with junior high tactics pointing their fingers at the educational requirements. Optometrists have the identical same amount of education as a dentist, 8 years plus an optional 1 to 2 years residency.

Optometrists are the primary care physician for your eyes and they see to it that you get the proper care with the specialist that you need. They are not cowboys out to take over the eye world as the MD's would have you think.

Please pass HB103 and help free up a bit more money out of the state budget in this time of having to tighten our belts....it only makes sense.

Sincerely,

Alicia Miles Froh

Doniece Gott

From: Patrick Reber <pnreber@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 3:52 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Dennis Egan
Subject: HB 103

Dear Senators,

I respectfully ask your support for HB 103. This bill allows the Alaska Optometric Board to regulate its own profession instead of using valuable legislature time that can be spent on more pressing Alaskan issues. This is the same authority that nursing and dentistry currently have. Despite what you may have heard this bill is not going to allow optometrists to do any procedures that we are not trained for. The scare tactics and propaganda that are being circulated right now are just that, scare tactics to defeat this bill and nothing more. Alaskan optometrists provide most of the eyecare for the residents of Alaska and have been doing it very well, so I hope you will support HB 103.

Thank you for your time.

Patrick Reber O.D.

Eagle River

Sent from Outlook

Doniece Gott

From: craig begin <craigbegin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 4:06 PM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Subject: Support for House Bill 103

To the desk of the honorable Senator for the State of Alaska, Anna MacKinnon

Dear Senator MacKinnon

I wanted to write you and confirm my support for House Bill 103. As an Optometrist and health care provider I wanted to reaffirm how important this legislation is. Having this bill pass will allow us to continue seeing and taking care of our patients under the control of the board of optometry. This would be the same as every other medical practitioner in the state. Doctors, nurses, dentists, chiropractors and all medical professionals in Alaska are subject to rules governed by their boards.

Please do not fall prey to the ridiculous tactics and conspiracies being spun by local ophthalmologists. No optometrist is trying to perform eye surgery. We only want to continue treating our patients like we always have, and have our profession controlled by the board of optometry. We ask that our profession be awarded the same rights as every other medical profession in this state.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely

Craig Begin OD

Dr. Craig Begin and Associates, LLC

Doniece Gott

From: David Karpik <davidkarpik.od@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 07, 2017 9:00 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Please SUPPORT HB 103, optometry

Senator,

I'm asking for your support of the current version of HB 103, ensuring access to quality eye care.

A U.S. news and world report study published last month ranked Alaska 50th in access to health care. You have an opportunity to change this alarming statistic. All health care providers, including optometrists, need to safely practice to the extent of their evolving training. This training is provided at great taxpayer cost by optometry colleges at state universities, as well as federal VA hospitals where optometric residency training takes place.

Supporting HB 103 is a choice that will improve access to quality care, which is an absolute necessity in our vast state. Improved access and competing providers help contain costs to the health systems, which are the exact reasons why a competing group desires restricting optometrists from providing care at which optometrists are highly trained. HB 103 ensures that all optometric procedures have been trained at accredited colleges of optometry, and optometrists go through a rigorous board testing protocol followed by maintenance of certification which are strict patient protections.

Sincerely,
David Karpik, OD
Kenai Vision Center

Doniece Gott

From: Alicia Froh <amouse82@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 4:33 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please support Optometry HB 103

I am writing to you today in support of HB103.

As a Dispensing Optician for the last 40 years, and former Chair of the Board of Dispensing Opticians, I have seen lots of legislative over site. Today more than ever we need to streamline that process to less impact the cost of state government. By passing HB103 that will be achieved .

I have listened to the testimony of several of the Doctors on both sides of this issue. I am appalled at the Ophthalmologists that feel it is necessary to use unfounded and untrue scare tactics. HB 103 will not let Optometrists do anything beyond their education or training. It will let them govern themselves just as the Boards of Medicine, Nursing, and Dentistry do now.

I cannot understand why the MD's feel it necessary to demean another profession with junior high tactics pointing their fingers at the educational requirements. Optometrists have the identical same amount of education as a dentist, 8 years plus an optional 1 to 2 years residency.

Optometrists are the primary care physician for your eyes and they see to it that you get the proper care with the specialist that you need. They are not cowboys out to take over the eye world as the MD's would have you think.

Please pass HB103 and help free up a bit more money out of the state budget in this time of having to tighten our belts....it only makes sense.

Sincerely,

Alicia Miles Froh

Doniece Gott

From: Jeremy Fulk <jcfulk@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 4:38 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Support HB 103 Optometry

Dear Senator,

I would like to re-iterate my request for your support of HB 103 for the following reasons:

- Optometry should be trusted as the other health professions.
- HB 103 does not do what opponents say it does, it only allows optometrists to practice at the level of their education and training, nothing more.
- Optometry should have board autonomy as the other health professions.
- Optometrists have 8 years of university plus 1-2 years optional residency.
- HB 103 updates the very old Alaska optometry law.
- Optometrists provide the majority of eye care in Alaska.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeremy C. Fulk O.D.

Eye Clinic of Fairbanks

116 Minnie St., Fairbanks, AK 99701

907-456-7760 Ext. 258

jfulk@eyeclinicfbks.com

Doniece Gott

From: Lo Crawford <locraw4d@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 5:54 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: HB 103 Needs Support

- Optometry should be trusted as the other health professions.
- The opposition is running a shameful misleading campaign to scare the public to oppose this bill.
- HB 103 does not do what opponents say it does. It only allows optometrists to practice at the level of their education and training, nothing more.
- Please don't fall for the scare tactics of the opposition.
- Optometry should have board autonomy as the other health professions.
- Optometrists have 8 years of university plus 1-2 years optional residency.
- HB 103 updates the very old Alaska optometry law.
- Optometrists provide the majority of eye care in Alaska.

Please contact the Alaska Optometric Association for firther clarification.

Lourdes Linato-Crawford

Doniece Gott

From: Brenda Lucio <bl1916@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 4:44 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 103

HB103 Need's support, HB103 **DOES NOT** do what opponents say it does, it only allows optometrists to practice at the level of their education and training, nothing more, please help optometry to be trusted as the other health professions are as they provide the majority of eye care in Alaska. Let them govern themselves, like the Nurse Practitioners, Dentists, and MD's do.

Thank you

Brenda Lucio
Your Constituent

Doniece Gott

From: Joshua Cook <dr.cook@alaskaeyecare.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 5:42 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Support for HB 103

Dear Senators,

I would like to extend my support of HB 103. Please know that there is a lot of misinformation out there and this is nothing more than a bill to be able to have a board that is able to regulate its own profession. This simply make the board of Optometry just like Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nurse Practitioners, etc. Please do not allow outside voices to influence your opinion of our profession. We are caring people who only want the best for our patients.

Warm Regards,

Joshua Cook, OD

Doniece Gott

From: angelhairkulich@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 6:05 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens
Subject: Please support HB 103

angelhairkulich@aol.com

Doniece Gott

From: Sharon Meier <wmeierk2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 5:11 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen.Dennis.Egan@akleg.go; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: HB 103 - please consider voting yes!

As you may have seen, HB 103 has been quite divisive, and I'm sure you have seen quite a few comments from the Ophthalmologists who are against this bill. I am a patient of a great optometrist in Juneau - and I can't believe the erroneous information that is being broadcast daily. Please consider passing HB 103 which would be most helpful to those of us who trust our physician to take care of us and NOT do any "procedure" for which they are not trained. Other professions, like Dentists and Nurse Practitioners have not had to deal with the negativity that Optometrists have in order to receive the same fair treatment. Talk to your Optometrist - don't listen to the scare tactics that are broadcast as part of a paid appeal to defeat this important bill. I urge you to vote YES to HB 103. Sharon Meier, Douglas AK (907) 789-1201

Doniece Gott

From: Cynthia McCaw <cynmccaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 5:57 PM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: Fwd: Please vote YES on HB 103

On Mon, May 8, 2017 at 12:37 PM, Cynthia McCaw <cynmccaw@gmail.com> wrote:

- Optometrists provide the majority of eye care in Alaska.
- Optometry should have board autonomy as the other health professions.
- HB 103 allows optometrists to practice at the level of their education and training, nothing more.
- Optometrists have 8 years of university plus 1-2 years optional residency.
- HB 103 updates the very old Alaska optometry law.
- Optometry should be trusted as other health professions are.
- The opposition is running a shameful misleading campaign to scare the public to oppose this bill. Please don't fall for these scare tactics.

Working in Optometry I feel this is very important.
Cyndie McCaw

**Alaska House of Representatives
Senate Finance Committee**

HB 103 : Written Testimony of Support for Hearing May 10, 2017

My name is Jeff Gonnason, OD. I was born and raised in Ketchikan & Craig and I was the first Alaska Native optometrist. I have served on the State Optometry Board under two different governors, and as Past President of the Alaska Optometric Association. I have volunteered at the Alaska Native Medical Center and Southcentral Foundation - you have a support letter from Katherine Gottlieb of Southcentral Foundation and other Native groups in your packet. I practice in Anchorage and performed clinics out in the villages in my younger days.

- **To be absolutely clear, HB 103 does NOT authorize any optometrist to do ANYTHING:**

It only updates 40+ year old statutes to allow the optometry board to regulate practice under their sworn duty to protect the public. The same as Alaska Dentists and Advanced Practice Nurses, so that Optometry does not have to return for legislation for every advance in new technology. Of the 4 independent prescribing professions, only optometry has been treated unfairly for so many years. The Alaska Optometry Board deserves to receive the same level of trust and respect as these other health care professions.

- **This bill authorizes optometry board autonomy — The same as the dental board and advanced practice nursing board:**

The Alaska Legislature establishes statutes by which all licensed health care professionals practice, and creates regulatory boards to protect the public by regulating the details of practice. The optometry board would never authorize any practice outside the scope of education and training, and doctors of optometry are held to the same standard of care as any medical provider treating patients. Section 5 of HB 103 is crystal clear on this topic. The optometry practice definition in Section 6 of HB 103 is modeled after the wording of the Alaska Dentistry statute.

- **Every one of the ophthalmologists & medical organizations that have testified on this issue for the past 40 years have only the same 2 demeaning arguments:**

1. Optometrists are a danger to the public.
2. Optometry's education is not adequate.

Both of these statements have proven patently untrue.

- **Optometry education and training is identical to the dentist model with 8-10 years of university level education and residency - Optometrists are “real doctors” the same as Dentists are “real doctors”:**

4 year professional program after acceptance, with the first 2 years of sciences and final 2 years of clinical experience and passing National Boards. Many also take a 1-2 years additional residency in a specialized area. How optometry and dentistry are different from medical school is that the first 2 years of sciences are similar - in fact optometry & dental & medical students often train together or have the same professors at the universities - but the second 2 years of clinic are different. Because medical school must cover the entire range of the body, more clinic time is spent on the priorities of vital organ systems of heart disease, cancer, stroke, etc. Because the eyes and teeth are so specialized, optometry and dental school clinics are mostly devoted to ocular and dental training. Optometry school covers systemic diseases with ocular manifestations such as diabetes or hypertension and to make appropriate referrals, and focuses on treating eye diseases and appropriate use of medications. Alaska optometrists have been prescribing Rx medications for 25 years, including prescribing Rx scheduled narcotics when needed for the past 10 years with zero issues of harm. Alaska optometry also supports limiting opioid use, and will keep the supply limitation in regulation per Section 4 of HB 103.

- **The prerequisites for optometry school meet or exceed the requirements for medical school admission:**

The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) parallels the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) and the Dental Aptitude Test (DAT). Through the primary care doctoral program in optometry school, the graduate is educated to make professional judgments and is quick to consult with other providers when a patient needs advanced services outside the scope of practice. The opposition claims optometrists “don’t go to medical school” but neither do dentists or advanced nurses — they also have their own very specialized education.

- **Optometrists are defined as “Physicians” within the federal Center for Medicare:**

They are held to the same standard of care as they treat Medicare patients. The malpractice claims for optometry are far lower than other professions, and the Alaska rate is about \$400/year for \$4 Million coverage. There has never been a case of patient harm before the State Optometry Board involving prescriptions or treatment, yet the opposition has testified for over 40 years predicting terrible public harm which has never come true.

- **The ophthalmologists are always comparing their advanced sub-specialty education to optometry education:**

Optometrist are trained in very few of the procedures that ophthalmologists perform. The clinical education of an optometrist does not have to parallel that of an ophthalmologist any more than the education of a family physician needs to parallel that of a neurosurgeon or heart surgeon.

Ophthalmologists are vitally needed, patients need their advanced expertise for cataract surgery, retina surgery, severe trauma, etc. These are all vital secondary and tertiary care conditions that optometrists do not treat and do not propose to treat. It is regretful that the opposition resorts to scare tactics trying to frighten people. Risk of harm to the public has never been an issue with optometry.

- **Optometry is also vitally needed in Alaska:**

Approximately 150 doctors of optometry practice all over Alaska, and serve over 80 remote villages. Optometrists provide the vast majority of primary eye care in Alaska. Local optometrists are called upon with hospital privileges at rural clinics for their expertise. Travel and treatment costs greatly increase when routine eyecare is provided by urban specialists. Alaska needs the best new doctors of optometry, and antiquated state statutes are a barrier to attracting the best and brightest to our state.

Thank for your support of better access to eye care for Alaskans. Please support HB 103.

Sincerely yours,

Jeff Gonnason, OD

Legislative Chair, Alaska Optometric Association
Past President, Alaska Optometric Association
Past Chair, Alaska State Board of Examiners in Optometry
Alaska Representative for the American Optometric Association
Medical Director for Vision Source Alaska