



January 27, 2017

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for SB 36, "An Act relating to the practice of optometry."

Dear Senator Giessel:

On behalf of Southcentral Foundation (SCF), I am writing in support of Senate Bill No. 36. regarding optometry in Alaska. SCF is the Alaska Native tribal health organization designated by Cook Inlet Region, Inc. and the eleven Federally-Recognized Tribes of the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Igiugig, Iliamna, Kokhanok, McGrath, Newhalen, Nikolai, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, Telida, and Takotna to provide healthcare services to beneficiaries of the Indian Health Service pursuant to a Compact with the United State government under the authority of P.L. 93-638, as amended, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

SCF provides services to more than 65,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people living in the Municipality of Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and 55 rural Alaska villages. Services provided by SCF include outpatient medical care, home health care, dentistry, optometry, psychiatry, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, residential treatment facilities for adolescents and for women, suicide prevention and domestic violence prevention.

SCF employs optometrists, dentists, physicians, and advanced practice registered nurses, all of whom have prescribing authority and their own state regulatory boards, and all work in harmony to treat patients for the best access to quality care.

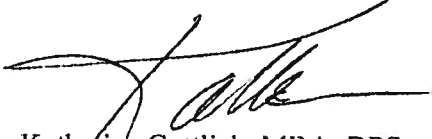
SB 36 updates the Alaska optometry statutes, making them similar to the dentistry and advanced practice nursing statutes, wherein the state board determines the regulatory details of practice, rather than setting them out in statute. This allows the state board more flexibility as technology advances and new modern treatment or procedures for patients become available. It also maintains the authority to protect the public.

SB 36 carefully and clearly empowers the state optometry board to regulate the practice in a manner consistent with current education and training. It clearly mandates strict limitations and restrictions that only allow the state board to authorize treatment within the confines of current training. All Alaskans will have better access to quality care into the future, while the board continues to provide oversight and authority to safeguard the public.

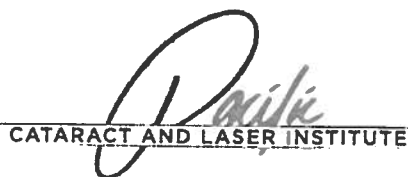
Optometrists in Alaska have an excellent history of safe, effective, and quality care. I urge your support of Senate Bill 36.

Sincerely,

SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Gottlieb', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Katherine Gottlieb, MBA, DPS
President/CEO



Robert Ford, MD
Anchorage, AK

Douglas Eldredge
Anchorage, AK

Scott H. Smith, MD

Bruce Alves

Barbara A. H. H. H.

Martin G. G. G. G.

Barbara A. H. H. H.

Rod J. J. J. J.

Barbara A. H. H. H.

Gordon J. J. J. J.

Barbara A. H. H. H.

Kathy McWilliams, MBA

Barbara A. H. H. H.

David Stanfield, OD

Barbara A. H. H. H.

Zane Bushoff, RN

Barbara A. H. H. H.

Michelle Q. Q. Q.

Barbara A. H. H. H.

Larry Roth, MS

Barbara A. H. H. H.

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February 1, 2017

Senate Health and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Senators Wilson, von Imhoff, Giessel, Micciche, and Begich,

My name is Dr. Paul Barney, I am an optometrist who practices in Anchorage, AK. I am also the Chair of the Alaska Board of Examiners in Optometry. I am writing to you to respectfully ask for your support of SB-36, an Alaska Senate bill which would allow the Alaska Board of Examiners in Optometry to regulate the profession of optometry, just as medicine, dentistry, and advanced nurse practitioners are regulated by their respective Boards.

This legislation will update the definition of Optometry to be consistent with what is taught in the schools and colleges of optometry in the United States; the current definition in statute was written over 40 years ago. SB-36 will put the details regarding the practice of optometry in regulation allowing the Alaska Board of Examiners in Optometry more flexibility with advancements in technology, pharmaceutical agents, and education, while at the same time ensuring public safety. This bill will also bring Alaska optometry statutes more in line with dentistry and advanced nurse practitioners, and just like the statutes concerning dentistry and advanced nurse practitioners, SB-36 will not allow the Optometry Board to expand scope of practice beyond current education and training.

As a current member of the Board of Examiners in Optometry, I take my duty and my oath to protect the citizens of Alaska very seriously. I know from my several years of experience on the Board that the other members take that oath equally seriously. Our Board consists of cautious, conservative optometrists all with several years of practice experience, and one lay person. We're also overseen by an Assistant Attorney General appointed by the state. I can assure you that the Board can be trusted to fulfill their primary purpose of protecting the public, and that the passage of SB-36 would not put the citizens of Alaska at risk.

Again, I respectfully ask for your support of SB-36.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Barney, O.D.

Chair, Alaska Board of Examiners in Optometry
Center Director, Pacific Cataract and Laser Institute

Affiliate



American Optometric
Association

Alaska Optometric Association

3705 Arctic Blvd, #675 · Anchorage, AK 99503

Telephone: 907.770.3777

AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com · www.akoaa.org

Ladd Nolin, OD
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Past President

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Vice President

Andrea Eberle, OD
Secretary

Victoria Blower, OD
Treasurer

Elizabeth Stevens
Executive Director

February 1, 2017

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Senate
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Giessel,

On behalf of the members of the Alaska Optometric Association, I would like to express my support for Senate Bill 36, "An Act relating to the practice of optometry."

It is our strong belief that the state board of optometry should be able to regulate its profession (the same way that dentistry, medicine and advanced nurse practitioners do) and that optometrists should be able to practice within the full scope of our training and education.

Thank you for introducing SB 36 and for your support for optometry in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ladd Nolin, OD
President, Alaska Optometric Association

From: Denise Thanepohn <dlthanepohn@gci.net>
Date: January 31, 2017 at 9:48:07 PM AKST
To: <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 36

Dear Senator Geisel,
Thank you very much for introducing this bill. As an optometrist in Anchorage, I appreciate your support in this endeavor. If I can be of any help, let me know.
Dr. Denise Thanepohn
Alaska Eye Care

Sent from my iPad

From: Kara Frank <karafrank88@gmail.com>
Date: January 31, 2017 at 9:46:50 PM AKST
To: <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support SB 36

Good evening,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I am writing on behalf of myself and my husband, Jacob Frank, OD. We own a practice in Palmer and would like to request your support in SB 36.

This bill is important to our profession as it allows optometrists to practice within the full scope of our training and education. It also permits the optometry board to regulate its own practice the same as other health professionals are currently allowed.

We believe this bill is beneficial to our family, our business, and our community, and we appreciate your consideration to this matter in advance.

Respectfully,

Kara Reynolds, OD & Jacob Frank, OD

Kara Reynolds, OD

Clinical Director

Lodestar Family Eye Care, PC

625 South Cobb St | Suite 101

Palmer | AK | 99645 907.745.2273

www.lodestareye.com

From: gary <garykjomeod@gmail.com>
Date: January 31, 2017 at 11:04:11 PM AKST
To: "Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Requesting support for SB 36

Dear Senator Giessel:

Thank you for supporting and sponsoring Senate Bill 36.

This bill would allow the optometry board the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as nursing, dentistry, and medicine.

Optometrists should be able to practice within the full scope of our training and education.

I am an optometrist who has been in practice in Anchorage since 1984.

Sincerely,
Gary Kjome

From: John Demske <johndemske@hotmail.com>
Date: January 31, 2017 at 11:05:15 PM AKST
To: "Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 36

Hello Senator Giessel,

I am writing to inform you that I fully support SB 36, the bill that gives autonomy to the Alaskan Board of Optometry and allows doctors of optometry to practice as taught in their university training. Thank you for introducing the bill.

John Demske, O.D. Soldotna

From: Rob Fleckenstein <rob@ervc.com>
Date: January 31, 2017 at 9:11:24 PM AKST
To: <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please support Senate Bill 36

My name is Robert Fleckenstein and I am an Optometrist that practices in Eagle River. I am writing you a short message to ask your support for SB 36. This bill helps to modernize and update the Alaska Optometry Statute and gives the Optometry Board the authority to regulate the practice of Optometry the same as other prescribing professions like dentistry, medicine and nursing. Your support for this bill would be greatly appreciated.

ROBERT J. FLECKENSTEIN, O.D.

Eagle River Vision Clinic 16331 Heritage Pl. #104 EAGLE RIVER, AK, 99577

T: 907-694-2511 F: 907-694-3900 www.ervc.com

From: Jessica Giesey <jlgiesey@gmail.com>
Date: January 31, 2017 at 7:04:02 PM AKST
To: <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 36

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing in support of SB 36. As a practicing optometrist in Anchorage I believe that myself and my colleagues should be able to practice the full scope of our training and education and have the ability to regulate our own board just as many other medical professions do. Thank you for your time and consideration of SB 36 and have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,

Jessica Giesey, O.D.

From: kathy rice <katyrice4@yahoo.com>
Date: January 27, 2017 at 9:12:43 PM AKST
To: "Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support SB 36
Reply-To: kathy rice <katyrice4@yahoo.com>

Dear Senator Giessel,

Thank you very much for your support of SB 36! Optometrists across the state are grateful for your support and dedication. As you know, the optometry board should have the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing. Optometrists should be able to practice within the full scope of our training and education.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Rice, OD
Kenai Vision Center
Kenai, AK

From: Patrick Reber [<mailto:pnreber@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 4:05 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please support SB 36

Senators,

I ask you to please support SB 36. The Alaska Optometry Board should have the authority to regulate its profession just as other health professions such as medicine and nursing and dentistry.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Patrick Reber O.D.

From: Lauren Hazelton [<mailto:hazelton.lauren@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 3:31 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB36

Dear Senators,

I am a lifelong second generation Alaskan and second generation optometrist in Anchorage.

SB 36 allows the Alaska Board of Optometry to regulate optometry the same as the other prescribing professions, without having to return for legislation for new technology and delaying quality care for Alaskans.

As a new graduate, this bill would allow the board to recognize my education and training and allow me to provide the best care for my patients. As stated in SB 36, the board would never allow optometrists to provide care outside of their scope of education and training.

Thank you for your support of SB36.

Lauren Hazelton OD

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

From: Andrew Peter O.D. [<mailto:homereyecare@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 3:52 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: SB36

Greetings Cathy,

Upcoming this week you will hear details on SB 36. I ask that you support this bill.

Technology in medicine is changing at an ever increasing rate; statistics show rates of change are almost exponential. These changes in medicine include imaging, medicine, and pathology diagnosis. For example our office uses retinal imaging and scanning that only a few years ago was only in academic institutions. We are now diagnosing and treating conditions years sooner. This makes a difference in the lives of patients.

Thus, as change continues, I want access to the best in technology and medicines for my patients. It is only right that optometry be regulated like every other medical profession, and allow our board to regulate and allow us as doctors to be nimble with emerging technologies.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me on my mobile; 907.299.6520.

Andrew Peter O.D.

Homer Eyecare

From: Rebecca Wilbur [mailto:rebecca.susie@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 2:44 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.Vonimhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 36

The optometry board should have the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing.

Optometrists should be able to practice within the full scope of our training and education.

Dr. Rebecca Wilbur
Optometrist, Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center Sent from my iPhone

From: Jeffrey Mattson [mailto:Jeffrey.Mattson@pcli.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 1:07 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB36 Support

Hello Senator,

My name is Jeffrey Mattson, I am an optometrist who practices in Anchorage, AK and I am asking your support of SB36.

SB36 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.

The state board would never authorize optometrists to do anything beyond their scope of education and training, as is clearly stated in SB36.

On every legislation for over the past 40 years, organized ophthalmology has claimed "terrible harm by optometrists" yet history proves this has NEVER been true.

Once again, thank you for your support of SB36.

Jeffrey Mattson, O.D.

From: Jim Falconer [mailto:dr_jim_jr@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 11:11 AM

To: Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please Support SB 36

Dear Senator,

I am writing to request your support for SB 36 which will give the state's Optometry Board legitimate authority to determine what the scope of optometry should be in Alaska. Optometry has a very good track record in Alaska and I can assure you that as a profession we will act responsibly for the citizens of Alaska. We know it will be best for our profession and our patients to do so.

-Jim Falconer, OD

From: Erik Christianson [<mailto:erik@kpunet.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 8:28 AM

To: Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>

Cc: 'Erik Christianson' <kecc@kpunet.net>; alaskaoptometricassociation@gmail.com

Subject: SB 36

Senators,

I am an optometric physician who has practiced in Ketchikan since 1990. I have practiced in Alaska since my graduation from optometry school in 1986. Prior to coming to K-town I spent 3 years in Barrow serving the residents of the North Slope. I have committed my professional career to preserving and enhancing the eye and visual health of rural Alaska.

In the time I have been in Alaska I have seen optometry advance as a profession. I have seen us become the "family eye doctor". I am a trusted member of the health care team. Daily I work with the gamut of local health care providers as the "go to" eye expert in our community. Daily I refer to and work with ophthalmologists and other specialty providers from Alaska and the northwest to maximize outcomes for our patients through cooperative management of eye and related health conditions.

Much of this advancement came because of legislation that modernized state law to allow doctors of optometry to expand their practice as knowledge, training, and technology advanced. SB 36 is the next logical step in the evolution of modern optometric practice.

It is particularly applicable in our rural state where the doctor of optometry is the eye expert. I am asking your support of SB 36. SB 36 does not authorize doctors of optometry to do any procedures--it only gives the state board authority to regulate the profession for the safety of the public. The state board cannot authorize optometrists to do anything beyond their scope of education and training, and

this is clearly stated in SB 36. SB 36 allows the State Board to regulate optometry just as other prescribing professions...without having to always return for legislation when new technology develops.

Costs are reduced when local eye care providers are able to practice at a level commensurate with their experience and training. This will help reduce the number of trips a rural patient must make to see specialists. Additionally, new doctors of optometry are looking for places where they can practice the full spectrum of their skills. This modernization legislation will allow rural Alaska to be competitive in attracting quality young doctors.

If you have questions regarding SB 36 feel free to contact me. Once again, thank you for your support of SB 36.

Erik D. Christianson, O.D. Ketchikan Eye Care Center 351 Carlanna Lake Rd Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Main: 907 225-2020 Office: 907 228-6379; Cell: 907 617-0936

From: David Holdgrafer [<mailto:djholdgrafer@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 8:30 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: Senate Bill 36

Greetings Senator Giessel,

As practicing optometrist on Kodiak Island I would appreciate your support of Senate Bill 36. Thanks for your support of Optometry!

Best regards and wishes for the new year,

David J Holdgrafer OD

Eyecare Excellence 3450 E Rezanof Drive Kodiak, AK 99615 t. 907-486-5504 f. 907-486-6577

djholdgrafer@gmail.com

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

From: victoria blower [mailto:victoria_blower@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:52 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: SB 36

Dear Senator Giessel,

Thank you for your continued support of SB 36 which gives authority to regulate the practice of optometry to the professional optometry board as occurs with all other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing.

Optometrists should be able to practice within the full scope of our training and education.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Victoria Blower

Sent from my iPad Vicky Blower

From: FORREST MESSERSCHMIDT [<mailto:docfor@gci.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:21 PM

To: Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof

<Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter

Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please support Senate Bill 36

Dear Senator,

SB 36 would allow Optometrists to practice up to their appropriate level of training and expertise. This bill would give the Optometry Board the ability to set scope of practice standards through regulation. **This is the same authority that other "limited license" professions such as Nursing and Dental Boards enjoy.** As a former board member I can attest to the great care and consideration the board takes in creating regulation with the primary goal of public protection. This streamlining and modernization of statute would in addition save a tremendous amount of time, energy and money expended by the Legislature in rehashing modernization of Optometry statutes in what seems to be a yearly process.

Thank you for your time,

Forrest Messerschmidt, O.D.

Juneau, Alaska

From: John Shank [<mailto:shankj45@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:12 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB36

Dear Senator Giessel,

Please support SB36.

Thank you, John T Shank

From: sarah bixby-dubois [<mailto:sarahbixbydubois@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:12 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you for supporting SB 36!

Senator Cathy Giessel,

Thanks for being a strong advocate for optometry. I really appreciate all your hard work! Keep it up!

Sincerely,

Dr. Sarah Bixby-DuBois, Optometrist, Alaska Vision Center, Inc. Juneau, AK 99801

sarahbixbydubois@gmail.com

From: Barbara Keys [<mailto:drkeys@akwestvalleyvision.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:10 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 36

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing to request that you support SB 36. I have had the privilege of practicing Optometry in Fairbanks for the past 22 years. Our scope of practice has changed to better take care of our patients in that time. SB 36 ensures the Optometry board has the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing.

Optometrists should be able to practice within the full scope of our training and education.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Barbara Keys, OD

From: Benjamin Crawford [<mailto:drcrawford@accuratevisionclinic.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:53 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Support Senate Bill 36

Senator Giessel,

Please support SB 36. I am a born and raised Alaskan optometrist. I returned to Alaska after attending school in the L48 and I now own my own practice in Anchorage. Luckily for me, Alaska has always been a great place to be an optometrist. I'd like to keep it that way, so that is why I'm asking for your support on SB 36.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Benjamin Crawford, O.D.

Accurate Vision Clinic

We've moved! Beginning January 30th our address will be;

3401 Minnesota Dr., Suite 200 Anchorage, AK 99503

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

From: Mike Mavencamp [<mailto:drmavencamp@akwestvalleyvision.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:41 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 36

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing this letter to show support for SB 36. Optometry in the state of Alaska has an excellent track record for caring for the people of Alaska; as such I believe the board of optometry should have the authority to regulate our practice just as dentistry, nursing and medicine self regulates their professions. This would allow Optometrist to practice within the full scope of our training and education which in turn would benefit the patients that we serve. Thank you for your time concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Mavencamp, O.D.

Jody Simpson

From: Dr. Laura Kompkoff <drk@katmaieye.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2017 5:45 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: SB36

I am writing to ask for your support for SB36. This bill is about Optometry's educated and responsible board regulating our profession, under the watch of our Attorney General just as other healthcare professions do in this state. This bill is in no way expanding our scope of practice beyond the borders of our training in schools and continuing education. In fact, this bill expresses that we must practice, under the watch of the board and the legal process of the Attorney General. The Legislative "Eye War" is deterring the real reasons for this bill:

- 1) A profession governed by those who are best suited to know our scope of practice with the state Attorney General's office oversight.
- 2) Best healthcare availability for Alaskans from a profession who is located all over the state.

The legislative body must look at our conservative primary care profession and know that we are making beneficial health decisions and changes for the best healthcare of all Alaskans.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will make the right decision for Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Laura Kompkoff, O.D.

Katmai Eye and Vision Center

Katmaieye.com

907-334-3937

Jody Simpson

From: Adam Huff <adamhuff@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2017 3:17 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Please support SB 36!

Dear Senator Wilson,

I am writing to ask for support for SB 36 in the next session. I am the owner of Northern Lights Eye Care in Anchorage, and have been practicing and living in Anchorage for almost 9 years. This bill will place decisions regarding our scope of practice as Optometrists in the hands of the State Board of Optometry, just as most other medical professions have done for years. Other professions such as Dentists, Nurse Practitioners, and Medical Doctors are self-regulated by their own boards, and this has benefited both their professions and the general public as they are able to more quickly access new treatments and procedures that benefit patients. Thank you so much for your support.

Sincerely,

Adam Huff, O.D.
Northern Lights Eye Care

Jody Simpson

From: William Phillips <WPhillips@kenaitze.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2017 1:12 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: SB 36

Hello. I am asking for your support of SB 36

The optometry board should have the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing.

Optometrists should be able to practice within the full scope of our training and education.

Will Phillips OD

Optometry

Kenai, AK

Please Note: This message is intended solely for the use of the addressee and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the addressee, you are hereby notified that any use, distribution or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you received this message in error, please notify us by reply e-mail or by telephone at (907) 335-7200 / (907) 335-7500 and immediately delete this message and any and all of its attachments. Chiqinik! (Thank You)

Jody Simpson

From: Shannon Farr <sfarr@searhc.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2017 4:38 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Senate Bill 36: please support

Dear Senator Wilson,

I writing to ask for your support regarding Senate Bill 36. I am a Commissioned Officer in the United States Public Health Service and have had the privilege of working with the Indian Health Service for over twenty years. Nineteen years of my career has been dedicated to coordinating and managing eye care for Alaska Native patients in the Bethel, Nome, and Southeast Alaska regions. The majority of my patients live remotely and Indian Health Service optometrists are continually providing comprehensive eye care, which includes co-management with the Alaska Native Medical Center ophthalmology department.

Indian Health Service optometrists practice within the full scope of our training and education. This allows us to manage and treat ocular disease at our local service unit.

My colleagues and I refer patients for ophthalmic surgery.

Thank you for your consideration,

--
Shannon Farr, OD FAAO
CAPT, USPHS
SEARHC
3245 Hospital Drive
Juneau, AK 99801



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Jody Simpson

From: Patrick Campaign <campaign@oculogenesis.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2017 9:57 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Peter Micciche
Subject: Please support SB 36, thanks!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: In 2D

Salutations, Senator Wilson and Senator Micciche.

I humbly request for you to support SB 36 tomorrow. Considering how most every medical professional including nurses and dentists have the capacity to self-regulate and self-govern, I would like the knowledge that my eye doctor has that capacity, too. When he doesn't, it is concerning that they must work harder just for the same rights as their peers, effectively like Washington DC must get local laws passed through Congress since they are not a state themselves.

Allow proper health care to happen by cutting the red tape. This will save state legislative time and money for long term benefit. Let that profession operate like how forty other states allow.

--

Patrick Campaign
Lead Consultant
Oculogenesis: VR/AR/Eye Techwear Consulting
P: 907-306-3182
F: 855-760-9968

Jody Simpson

From: Jerimiah Myers <docmyers@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2017 8:41 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Senator.Natasha.vonimof@akleg.gov; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: Please vote for SB36

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: In 2D

Dear Senators:

The optometry board should have the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing.

Optometrists should be able to practice within the full scope of our training and education.

It only makes sense...

Dr. Jerimiah Myers "Doc"
PO Box 1948
Kodiak, AK 99615

(907) 539-2010 cell
(907) 486-6117 office

Jody Simpson

From: Dr. Sheryl Lentfer <dr.slentfer@katmaieye.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2017 8:37 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: SB36

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: In 2D

Please support this bill. This bill is about our educated and responsible board regulating our profession, and under the additional watch of our Attorney General's office. This bill is in no way expanding our scope of practice beyond the borders of our current training in schools and continuing education. In fact, this bill expresses exactly that we have to practice to our training, under the watch of the board and the legal process of the Attorney General. This bill NO way affects Ophthalmologist. It has nothing to do with them. When you look at the bill from last year, it reminds us of all the "concessions" we tried to make for those who the bill does affect. The legislative "eye war" is deterring the real reasons for this bill.

1) A profession governed by those who are best suited to know the scope of practice and with our state Attorney General's office oversight.

2) Provides the best healthcare availability for Alaskans from professionals who are located all over the state.

As you saw, "concessions" do not satisfy the oppositions which strangely only comes from one medical profession. **The legislative body has to look at our conservative primary care profession and know that we are making beneficial health decisions in lieu of what is best for the healthcare of Alaskans.** Sight is precious and it affects our everyday lives (just close your eyes for one minute), we probably know that better than all other healthcare professionals with the exception of Ophthalmologists.

Sherry Lentfer, OD
Katmai Eye and Vision Center
12570 Old Seward Hwy., Suite 104
Anchorage, AK 99515
(907)334-3937

Jody Simpson

From: Dr. Laura Kompkoff <drk@katmaieye.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2017 5:45 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: SB36
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
Categories: In 2D

I am writing to ask for your support for SB36. This bill is about Optometry's educated and responsible board regulating our profession, under the watch of our Attorney General just as other healthcare professions do in this state. This bill is in no way expanding our scope of practice beyond the borders of our training in schools and continuing education. In fact, this bill expresses that we must practice, under the watch of the board and the legal process of the Attorney General. The Legislative "Eye War" is deterring the real reasons for this bill:

- 1) A profession governed by those who are best suited to know our scope of practice with the state Attorney General's office oversight.
- 2) Best healthcare availability for Alaskans from a profession who is located all over the state.

The legislative body must look at our conservative primary care profession and know that we are making beneficial health decisions and changes for the best healthcare of all Alaskans.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will make the right decision for Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Laura Kompkoff, O.D.

Katmai Eye and Vision Center

Katmaieye.com

907-334-3937

From: Nicole Berhow <nberhow@gci.net>
Date: January 28, 2017 at 3:06:57 PM AKST
To: <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 36

Hello Senator,

I am an Optometrist practicing in Anchorage since 1997. Please support Senate Bill 36. The optometry board should have the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing. Optometrists should be able to practice within the full scope of our training and education. The bill ensures that no licensee may perform any procedure beyond the scope of the licensee's education, training, and experience as established by the board. This allows for future new and improved diagnostic and therapeutic procedures as determined by the board, while not having to return to the legislature for every new technological advance, which is currently the case and unnecessarily burdensome.

Thank you for your support,

Nicole L Berhow, OD

From: <bricin@aol.com>

Date: February 1, 2017 at 8:22:26 PM AKST

To: <senator.david.wilson@akleg.gov>, <senator.natasha.vonimhof@akleg.gov>, <senator.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov>, <senator.peter.micciche@akleg.gov>, <senator.tom.begich@akleg.gov>

Subject: Senate Bill 36

I am writing in support of senate bill 36.

Senate Bill 36 would give the Alaska State Board of Optometry the authority to regulate Optometry. This is the same way that other health care professions are regulated such as dentistry, medicine, and nursing.

As an Optometrist in Alaska I firmly believe that Optometrists should be able to practice to the full scope of our education and training.

Thank you for your time and attention to this Bill

Respectfully,

Dr. Brian Cin

From: Steven Dobson [<mailto:stevendobsonod@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 7:16 PM

To: Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support SB 36

Dear Senators

I am an optometric physician and life long Alaskan who has practiced here in Alaska since 1982 and I respectfully request your support of SB 36.

SB 36 does not authorize doctors of optometry to do any procedures, it only allows the board of optometry to regulate the profession for the safety and welfare of the Alaskan public. This is in line with other prescribing professions.

SB 36 clearly states the state board of optometry cannot authorize optometrists to do anything beyond their scope of education and training.

SB 36 will allow Alaskans throughout our state to continue to receive the highest level of optometric eye care services as advancements are made in eye care knowledge, training and technology.

Once again, I thank you and appreciate your support of SB 36.

Steve Dobson, O.D.

Immediate Past President, Alaska Optometric Association

From: Joshua Cook <dr.cook@alaskaeyecare.com>
Date: January 28, 2017 at 9:00:41 AM AKST
To: <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 36

Dear Senator Cathy Giessel,

I would like to extend my support for SB 36.

I believe this to be a great bill that would affect how Optometry is practiced and regulated in the state of Alaska. This bill updates the Alaska Optometry statutes in several areas, making it similar to the dental and nurse practitioner statutes, whereas the board determines the regulatory details of practice. This allows more flexibility as technology advances, but in no way allows us to perform anything outside of our scope of practice.

I thank you for your consideration of SB 36.

Best regards,

Joshua Cook, OD

From: "Dr. Elizabeth Lane" <drlane@makareyecare.com>
Date: January 29, 2017 at 5:25:25 PM AKST
To: <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 36

Dear Senator,

I'm writing to request your support for Senate Bill 36 which has a scheduled hearing in front of the Health and Social Services Committee Friday, February 3 at 1:30 PM.

The bill allows an optometry board to have authority to regulate its practice, the same as other prescribing health professions including dentistry, medicine, and nursing. It will allow a board to regulate optometry's scope of practice to reflect optometrist's training and education.

If you have any questions about why I am in support of this bill, feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration of support for SB 36.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Lane Bow, OD
907-250-4225

From: Kathleen Powell [<mailto:kepowellod@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 10:05 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB36

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am respectfully requesting your support for Senate Bill 36.

The optometry board should have the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing.

Optometrists should be able to practice within the full scope of our training and education.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Powell, O.D.
Anchorage

From: "Dr. Marilyn Holm" <drmholm@AgapePEC.com>
Date: January 28, 2017 at 10:33:47 AM AKST
To: "Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 36

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing to request that you support Senate Bill 36 to update our optometry statutes in the state of Alaska. Our state optometry board should have the authority to regulate the practice of optometry as to the other prescribing health professions. This allows the board to keep the practice of optometry in Alaska up to date with current practices while not being unnecessarily burdensome to board or the legislature. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Marilyn Holm, OD

Agape Peninsula Eye Care, LLC

Office: (907)262-2200

Fax: (907)262-2244

Email: drmholm@AgapePEC.com

From: Elizabeth Hunt [<mailto:ehunt@lifetime-eyecare.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 1:47 PM

To: Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>

Subject: Senate Bill 36

Dear Senators,

I wanted to touch base with you about Senate bill 36. Some would have you believe that Senate bill 36 would authorize an Optometrist to do surgery, and that the moment SB 36 is passed Optometrists will pick up the scalpel and begin performing all sorts of surgeries completely out of their scope of training. This is completely untrue, and had we as optometrists desired to become surgeons, we would have gone to medical school (and many of us very well could have).

Senate Bill 36 has nothing to do with granting privileges of surgery. **Senate bill 36 clarifies and simplifies the oversight of our profession and puts it in the hands of people who are most familiar with it. The purpose of the bill is to give optometrists equal rights to govern their profession, exactly like medical doctors, dentists and nurse practitioners govern their profession with the use of a board.** This means that our optometry board (which has members from both optometry as well as the general public)—instead of the legislature—would control our scope of care based on our training and what is in the interest of the public good. The board would never authorize Optometrists to perform procedures they were not well trained to perform, and **in fact the bill contains language specifically prohibiting Optometrists from performing the very surgeries the opposition is claiming it would authorize.** This is great, because, guess what? We do not want to become surgeons, and optometrists tend to be very conservative clinicians by nature which is reflected in our incredibly low malpractice premiums.

So why is the bill important? An easy example is the change of Vicodin from a schedule III to a schedule II drug by the FDA. Privileges at the time allowed optometrists to prescribe Vicodin in a very small supply over 4 days to patients with severe corneal abrasions for example. With the FDA change we had to actually put a bill through the legislature, which was very costly and

cumbersome, simply to keep a privilege that we had already been granted and used responsibly.

Medical boards control the way the medical profession practices. Dentists and Nurse Practitioners have the same exact same privileges. All of these boards have done a tremendous job regulating the professions and protecting the public, and ours serves this same purpose. Our profession simply asks to be treated equally, and to be able to continue to provide innovative and quality care to rural Alaskans. Any innovations in care would be governed by our own board, a board that would never allow a non-surgeon to perform surgery. It would go against the very principle of the board's existence.

The sad part about the very expensive and very manipulative tactics used by the opposition is that it paints our profession in a negative light, and is spreading lies about what Senate bill 36 is all about. Anyone listening to their ads would say, "well of course I don't want an optometrist performing my cataract surgery, so I am telling my senator to vote no on SB 36 and I am going to speak out against it." If this were true, I would feel the same. But that is not at all what this bill would do, and the opposition amounts to unfounded scare tactics; we are asking for fair treatment under the law, not asking for the scalpel. Thank you very much for your thoughtful consideration.

Best,

Elizabeth Hunt, OD

Optometrist practicing in Juneau, Alaska

From: David Karpik <davidkarpik.od@gmail.com>
Date: January 30, 2017 at 10:34:55 PM AKST
To: <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 36 support

Senator Giessel,

Thank you for your introduction of SB 36. This simple and clear statute rewrites the patched-together legislation that is the current optometry law. Optometry has a long history as an independent profession that is conservative in decision making and keeps the best interests of the patient in mind. The state optometry board should have the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other independent prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine, and nursing.

Optometrists should be able to practice within the full scope of our training and education. This optimizes access to quality and timely care for patients, and reduces costs, including the burdens of unnecessary travel often paid by state Medicaid funds.

Respectfully,
David Karpik, OD
Kenai Vision Center

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

From: Jill Matheson [<mailto:vision@alaska.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:03 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 36- Support

Dear Senator Giessel,

I would like to put forth my strong support for Senate Bill 36. This bill would allow the Board of Optometry to regulate Optometrists just as Dentists, Doctors and Nurse Practitioners regulate themselves. I testified for a similar bill in the past years and strongly support this bill as written. As a former Chair of the State Board of Examiners in Optometry, I understand the need to have as broad of language as possible in statute, so that the Board can more quickly and easily change regulations when advancements in our field happen. This Bill allows the Board to define Optometry in modern terms, and keep us Optometrists providing care for our patients at the highest level possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact me by email (vision@alaska.net) or phone (907-723-6119) if you have any questions.

Jill Matheson, OD

--

Jill Geering Matheson, OD Alaska Vision Center, Inc. 800 Glacier Ave. Juneau, AK 99801
PH: 907-586-9864 FAX: 907-463-2679

From: "Dr. Sheryl Lentfer" <dr.slentfer@katmaieye.com>

Date: February 2, 2017 at 8:39:39 PM AKST

To: "Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: Sb36

Senator Giessel, I hope all is well with you! Here is my comments on this legislation... thank you again for your understanding and support!

Please support this bill. This bill is about our educated and responsible board regulating our profession, and under the additional watch of our Attorney General's office. This bill is in no way expanding our scope of practice beyond the borders of our current training in schools and continuing education. In fact, this bill expresses exactly that we have to practice to our training, under the watch of the board and the legal process of the Attorney General.

This bill NO way affects Ophthalmologist. It has nothing to do with them. When you look at the bill from last year, it reminds us of all the "concessions" we tried to make for those who the bill does affect. The legislative "eye war" is deterring the real reasons for this bill.

1) A profession governed by those who are best suited to know the scope of practice and with our state Attorney General's office oversight.

2) Provides the best healthcare availability for Alaskans from professionals who are located all over the state.

As you saw, "concessions" do not satisfy the oppositions which strangely only comes from one medical profession. **The legislative body has to look at our conservative primary care profession and know that we are making beneficial health decisions in lieu of what is best for the healthcare of Alaskans.** Sight is precious and it affects our everyday lives (just close your eyes for one minute), we probably know that better than all other healthcare professionals with the exception of Ophthalmologists.

Sherry Lentfer, OD
Katmai Eye and Vision Center
12570 Old Seward Hwy., Suite 104
Anchorage, AK 99515
(907)334-3937

Begin forwarded message:

From: Amber Mayberry <mayberry.amber@gmail.com>
Date: January 29, 2017 at 8:34:35 AM AKST
To: <Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate Bill 36

Hello,

My name is Amber Mayberry and I'm an optometrist in Wasilla, Alaska. I am contacting you today to ask for your support in Senate Bill 36. I know many people are worried about the term 'ophthalmic surgery' but this refers to procedures 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 which is what is CURRENTLY taught in 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

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

From: Ladd Nolin [<mailto:dr.nolin@alaskaeyecare.com>]

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 3:27 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: SB36

Hello Senator Giessel,

I am writing to express support for Senate Bill 36. This would allow the Alaska Board of Optometry to regulate its profession just like the other prescribing professions do in the state, including Dentistry, Medicine and Nurse Practitioners. This would also provide Optometrists the ability to practice within their full scope of education and training.

Sincerely,

Ladd Nolin O.D.