

HB

103

<TARGET><BILL>HB 103</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
103</SUBJECT><COMM>HL&C30</COMM></TARGET>



Representative Ivy Spohnholz

House Health & Social Services Committee Chair

Serving House District 16: College Gate, Russian Jack, Nunaka Valley, & Reflection Lake

Committee Member: Education, Energy, Military & Veterans Affairs, Legislative Budget & Audit

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 103

“An Act relating to the practice of optometry; and providing an effective date.”

HB 103 modernizes and updates the Alaska Optometry Statute, as many parts are over 50 years old. It allows the optometry board the authority to regulate its practice the same as other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing. This bill also allows the board to continue to adopt regulations, updated to current practice and moves the continuing education (CE) requirements back into regulations.

Continuing education is still required by current statute, but the hours and subjects will be determined by the board as with other professions. This change allows the board flexibility to control CE requirements and is recommended by the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. The current regulations require more CE hours than the statute subsection deleted by this bill.

HB 103 allows the optometry board to determine prescribed drug schedules, including standards and limitations on practice determined by the board.

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.

The optometry definition in this bill is updated to reflect current and modern-day practice.

Session (January-April):
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone (907) 465-4049

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Sectional Analysis

House Bill 103

Optometry & Optometrists

Section 1

AS.08.72.050 (4)(6) updates very old statutes to indicate that regulations shall be adopted to govern the current prescription and use of pharmaceutical agents; and develop uniform standards for the practice of optometry.

Section 2

AS.08.72.060 (c)(4) the board shall publish advisory opinions regarding standards for the practice of optometry.

Section 3

AS 08.72.181(d) moves the continuing education (CE) requirements back into regulation, as desired by the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. Continuing education is still required by current statute, but the hours and subjects will be determined by the board.

Section 4

AS 08.72.272(a) clarifies the current statute for the board to regulate pharmaceutical agent prescription including standards and limitations on practice determined by the board.

Section 5

AS 08.72.278 **Limitation on practice** adds a new section that sets limitations on services, ensuring that the board may not authorize any procedure beyond the scope of the licensee's education and experience.

Section 6

AS 08.72.300(3) updates the optometry definition to reflect current practice.

Section 7

Effective date for Section 2. This is because (3) of Section 2 was added to statute in 2016 via Senate Bill 74, the Medicaid Reform bill, and it had the effective date of July 2017, so (4) is written to comply with that date as well. (per Legislative Drafting)

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Committee Substitute - Explanation of Changes

House Bill 103

Optometry & Optometrists

Version A to committee substitute Version D

The language in the committee substitute gives the Board of Optometry authority to regulate its practice, reflecting the same regulatory authority given to the other prescribing practices such as medicine, nursing and dentistry.

In this new version we have removed the reference to ophthalmic surgery from the bill (page 1, lines 12-13, and also on page 2, lines 21-23).

It is unnecessary for this language to be placed in statute; optometric procedures, within optometry's scope of practice, can be regulated by the board, all requiring robust public comment from stakeholders and rigorous Department of Law oversight.

This is the current process for the Medical Board, the Board of Nursing, the Board of Dentistry. And so should it be for the Board of Optometry. The new CS reflects that intent in version D.

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30-LS0459D
Bruce
2/21/17

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 103()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE SPOHNHOLZ

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the practice of optometry; and providing for an effective date."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 *** Section 1.** AS 08.72.050 is amended to read:

4 **Sec. 08.72.050. Regulations.** The board shall adopt regulations

5 (1) necessary for the proper performances of its duties;

6 (2) governing the applicants and applications for licensing;

7 (3) for the licensing of optometrists;

8 (4) necessary to govern the practice of optometry, including the

9 prescription and use of pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of eye disease;

10 (5) prescribing requirements that a person licensed under this chapter
11 must meet to demonstrate continued professional competency;

12 (6) developing uniform standards for the practice of optometry.

13 *** Sec. 2.** AS 08.72.060(c), as amended by sec. 11, ch. 25, SLA 2016, is amended to read:

14 (c) The board shall

15 (1) elect a chair and secretary from among its members;

1 (2) order a licensee to submit to a reasonable physical examination if
2 the licensee's physical capacity to practice safely is at issue;

3 (3) require that a licensee who has a federal Drug Enforcement
4 Administration registration number register with the controlled substance prescription
5 database under AS 17.30.200(o);

6 **(4) publish advisory opinions regarding standards for the practice**
7 **of optometry as provided under this chapter.**

8 * **Sec. 3.** AS 08.72.181(d) is amended to read:

9 (d) Before a license may be renewed, the licensee shall submit to the board
10 evidence that, **during the preceding licensing period** [IN THE FOUR YEARS
11 PRECEDING THE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL], the licensee has

12 [(1) COMPLETED EIGHT HOURS OF CONTINUING
13 EDUCATION, APPROVED BY THE BOARD, CONCERNING THE USE AND
14 PRESCRIPTION OF PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS;

15 (2) COMPLETED SEVEN HOURS OF CONTINUING
16 EDUCATION, APPROVED BY THE BOARD, CONCERNING THE INJECTION
17 OF NONTOPICAL THERAPEUTIC PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS; AND

18 (3)] met [OTHER] continuing education requirements as may be
19 prescribed by regulations of the board to ensure the continued protection of the public.

20 * **Sec. 4.** AS 08.72.272(a) is repealed and reenacted to read:

21 (a) A licensee may prescribe and use a pharmaceutical agent, including a
22 controlled substance, in the practice of optometry if the pharmaceutical agent is used
23 in a manner consistent with standards adopted by the board in regulation; the standards
24 must include limitations on practice adopted under AS 08.72.278.

25 * **Sec. 5.** AS 08.72 is amended by adding a new section to read:

26 **Sec. 08.72.278. Limitation on practice.** A licensee may perform the services
27 of optometry as defined in AS 08.72.300 only if the services are within the scope of
28 the licensee's education, training, and experience as established by regulations adopted
29 by the board.

30 * **Sec. 6.** AS 08.72.300(3) is repealed and reenacted to read:

31 (3) "optometry" means the examination, evaluation, diagnosis,

1 treatment, or performance of preventive procedures related to diseases, disorders, or
2 conditions of the human eyes or adjacent and associated structures, consistent with this
3 chapter and regulations adopted by the board;

4 * **Sec. 7.** Section 2 of this Act takes effect July 17, 2017.

Offered by Kito, adopted

30-LS0459J.5
Bruce
3/28/17



AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: CSHB 103(HSS)

- 1 Page 2, lines 6 - 7:
- 2 Delete "standards for the practice of optometry as provided"
- 3 Insert "whether optometry practice procedures or policies comply with acceptable
- 4 standards of the practice of optometry, as provided"

failed 1-5

30-LS0459\J.1
Bruce
3/27/17



AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: CSHB 103(HSS)

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHSON

- 1 Page 1, line 9, following "**disease**":
- 2 Insert "**as provided under AS 08.72.272**"

failed 1-5

30-LS0459J.2
Bruce
3/27/17

#3

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: CSHB 103(HSS)

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHSON

- 1 Page 2, lines 20 - 24:
- 2 Delete all material.
- 3
- 4 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

failed 1-5

30-LS0459J.3
Bruce
3/27/17



AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: CSHB 103(HSS)

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHSON

1 Page 2, following line 24:

2 Insert a new bill section to read:

3 **"* Sec. 5.** AS 08.72.273 is repealed and reenacted to read:

4 **Sec. 08.72.273. Non-invasive procedures.** Except as provided in
5 AS 08.72.278, a licensee may perform non-invasive procedures including

- 6 (1) removing superficial bodies from the eye and its appendages;
- 7 (2) epilating misaligned eyelashes;
- 8 (3) placing punctal or lacrimal plugs;
- 9 (4) diagnosing dilation and irrigation of the lacrimal system;
- 10 (5) performing orthokeratology;
- 11 (6) prescribing and fitting contact lenses with the purpose of altering
- 12 refractive error;
- 13 (7) using diagnostic instruments that use laser or ultrasound
- 14 technology; and
- 15 (8) other similar procedures within the scope and practice of
- 16 optometry."

17

18 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

19

20 Page 2, line 26, following **"practice."**:

21 Insert "(a)"

22

23 Page 2, following line 29:

1 Insert a new subsection to read:

2 "(b) A licensee may not perform ophthalmic surgery. In this subsection,
3 "ophthalmic surgery" means an invasive procedure where human tissue is cut, ablated,
4 or otherwise penetrated by incision, laser, or other means to treat diseases of the
5 human eye, alter or correct refractive error, or alter or enhance cosmetic appearance;
6 "ophthalmic surgery" does not include the procedures described under AS 08.72.273."

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2017 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 103
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB103-DCCED-CBPL-03-09-17
Title: OPTOMETRY & OPTOMETRISTS
Sponsor: SPOHNHOLZ
Requester: (S) Health & Social Services

Department: Department of Commerce, Community and
Economic Development
Appropriation: Corporations, Business and Professional
Licensing
Allocation: Corporations, Business and Professional
Licensing
OMB Component Number: 2360

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2018 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2018 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services	5.1							
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1156 Rcpt Svcs (DGF)	5.1							
Total	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues

1156 Rcpt Svcs (DGF)	5.1							
Total	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2017) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? Yes
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/18

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By:	Janey Hovenden, Director	Phone:	(907)465-2538
Division:	Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing	Date:	03/09/2017 06:40 PM
Approved By:	Catherine Reardon, Director	Date:	03/10/17
Agency:	Division of Administrative Services, DCCED		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 103

Analysis

HB 103 allows the Board of Optometrists to set continuing education standards in regulations pertaining to the prescription, use and injection of pharmaceutical agents. It additionally gives the board latitude in outlining the scope of practice of an optometrist in accordance with education, training and experience of the optometrist as educational standards increase across the nation.

The impact on the private sector would be a broader scope of practice for an optometrist, therefore not requiring a patient to be referred to a medical doctor for certain procedures.

This bill would not change the program for the division beyond what is outlined above.

If the bill passes the division will require \$5.1 to cover legal costs to amend regulations, printing, and postage in the first year.

Professional licensing programs within the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing are funded by Receipt Supported Services, fund source 1156 Rcpt Svcs (DGF). Licensing fees for each occupation are set per AS 08.01.065 so the total amount of revenue collected approximately equals the occupation's actual regulatory costs.

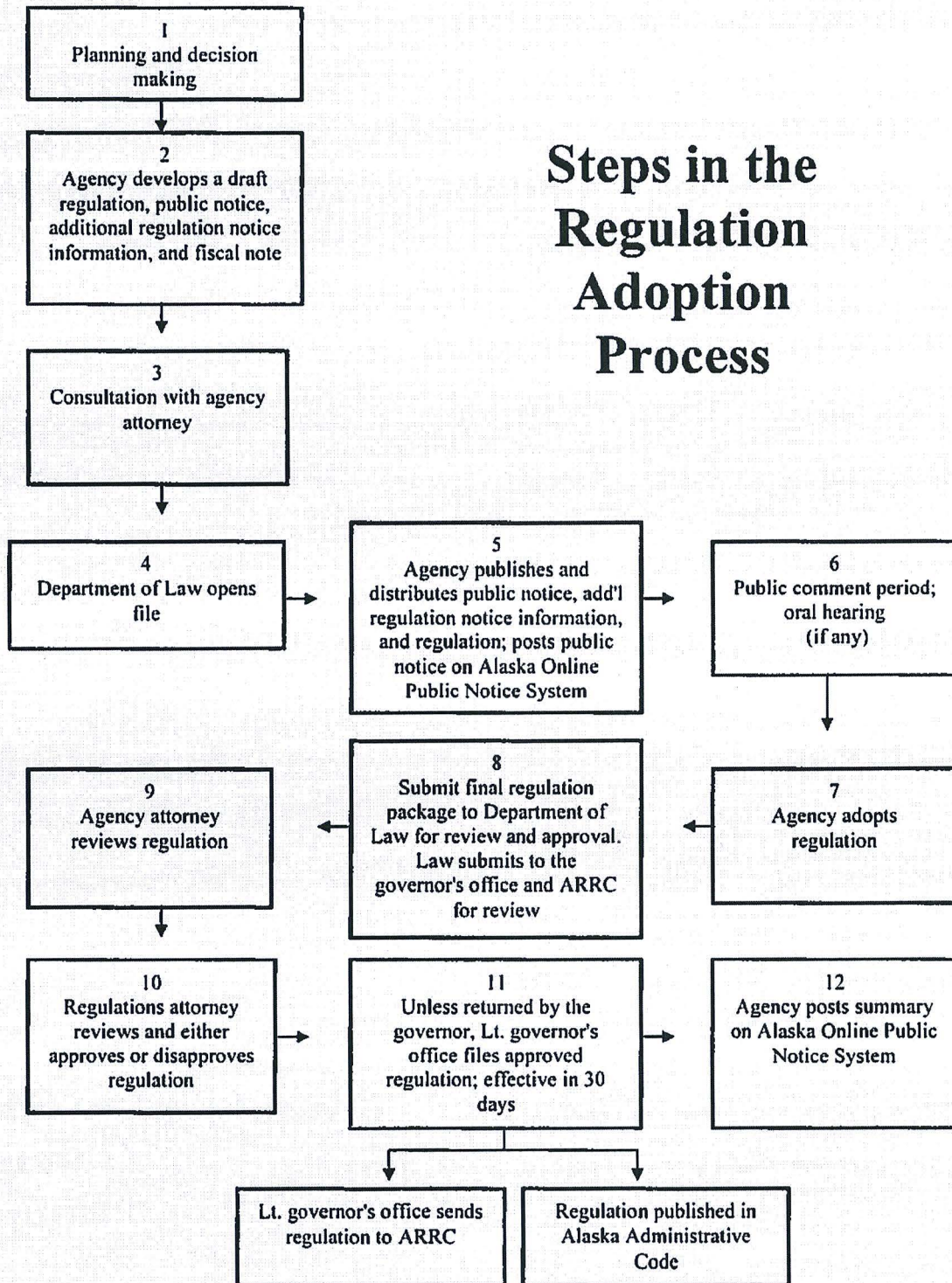
Drafting Manual for Administrative Regulations



Prepared by

State of Alaska
Department of Law

August 2015



Doctors of Optometry and their Education

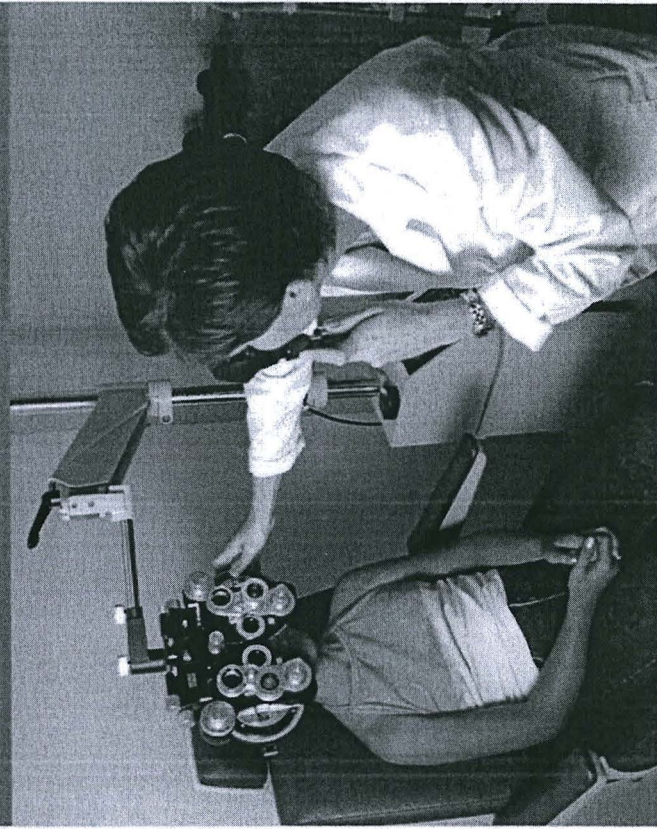
As primary eye care providers, doctors of optometry are an integral part of the health care team, earning their doctoral degree just as dentists, podiatrists and other doctors do.

- Prior to admittance into optometry school, optometrists typically complete four years of undergraduate study, culminating in a bachelor's degree. Required undergraduate coursework for pre-optometry students is extensive and covers a wide variety of advanced health, science and mathematics courses.
- Optometry school consists of four years of post-graduate, doctoral-level study concentrating on the eye, vision and associated systemic disease. In addition to profession-specific courses, optometrists are required to take systemic health courses that focus on a patient's overall medical condition as it relates to the eyes.
- Upon completion of optometry school, candidates graduate from their accredited college of optometry and hold the doctor of optometry (OD) degree.
- Some optometrists participate in residency programs following optometry school. This experience offers doctors of optometry training in an optometric sub-specialty such as pediatric optometry, low vision care, or geriatrics.

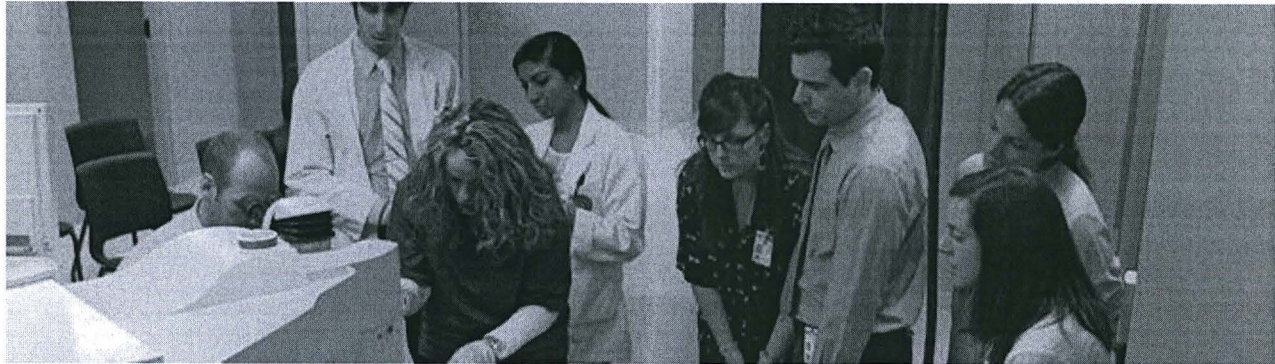


Optometric Education in Practice

- Optometrists must pass a rigorous national examination administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBO). The three-part exam includes basic science, clinical science and patient care.
- All optometrists are required to participate in ongoing continuing education courses to stay current on the latest standards of care.
- Curriculums and continuing education are updated on an ongoing basis to reflect technological advances, including surgery techniques, prescriptive medications and other medical treatments related to eye diseases and disorders.
- In addition to being the experts on eye and vision diseases and disorders, doctors of optometry have the education and training to diagnose the ocular manifestations of diseases that affect the entire body, such as diabetes and hypertension. They also are qualified to evaluate their patients for surgery when appropriate and often manage their patients' care pre- and post-operatively.



Curriculum



Listen

In 10 semesters over four years, the Doctor of Optometry (OD) program offers a **dynamic, cutting edge curriculum** that trains you to provide the **fullest scope of optometric care**. At The Ohio State University College of Optometry you will be among the best and brightest students learning from the best and brightest faculty as you:

- **Begin patient care in the first year**
- Directly **examine 1800 patients** by the time you graduate **and see additional patients** through school screenings, case reviews, grand rounds, and Eyewear Gallery appointments
- **Deliver eyecare in all primary and sub-specialty areas** in our College's full range of clinical services including: Primary Vision Care, Binocular Vision, Pediatrics, Advanced Ocular Care, Contact Lenses (Adult and Pediatric), Low Vision Rehabilitation, and Eyewear Gallery
- Learn to run a successful optometric practice with **the most comprehensive series of practice management courses**, ranging from personal finance to the development of a complete business plan

At Ohio State, we are preparing the leaders of tomorrow!

[Show all](#)

First Year

Autumn

Biochemistry for Optometry

General and Histological Anatomy

Geometric Optics

Introduction to Primary Care Testing I

Ocular Anatomy

Optometric Career Options and Financing **

Pathophysiology I

Practice of Optometry

Spring

Epidemiology and Biostatistics for Optometry

General and Visual Neuroanatomy

Introduction to Primary Care Testing II *

Microbiology for Optometry

Ocular Physiology

Optics of the Eye

Pathophysiology II

Physical Optics and Photometry

Introduction to Clinical Diagnostic Reasoning in Optometry

*** Direct Patient Care**

**** Practice Management Course**

Show all

Second Year

Autumn

Anterior Segment Ocular Disease

Basic and Ocular Pharmacology

Ocular Care Techniques

Ophthalmic Optics

Optometric Examination

Spring

Advanced Ocular Care Techniques
Clinical Ocular Pharmacology
Coding and Reimbursement **
Diagnosing and Prescribing
Introduction to Primary Care Practice *
Posterior Segment Ocular Disease
Visual Neurophysiology and Perception

* **Direct Patient Care**

** **Practice Management Course**

Show all

Third Year

Summer

Contact Lenses

Contact Lens Lab

Eye Movements and Binocular Vision

Management of Glaucoma

Ocular Neurology

Vision of Children

Intermediate Clinical Diagnostic Reasoning in Optometry

Autumn

Advanced Contact Lenses

Advanced Contact Lens Lab

Clinical Binocular Vision

Systemic Disease for Optometry

Third-Party Payment Plans **

Spring

Injections, Lasers and Advanced Ocular Techniques

Low Vision Rehabilitation and Gerontology

Optometric Economics and Jurisprudence, Practice Analysis and Practice Systems **

Public Health & Environmental Vision

Surgery and Co-management of Ocular Disease

Clinical Education *

Introduction to Contact Lenses (One Semester)

Ocular Disease Practice (One Semester)

Ophthalmic Dispensing (One semester)

Primary Care Practice (All three semesters)

Vision Screening (Autumn semester)

*** Direct Patient Care**

**** Practice Management Course**

Show all

Fourth Year *

In-House Internship*

Binocular Vision and Pediatrics Service

Clinical and Business Aspects of Practice **

Contact Lens Service

Low Vision Rehabilitation Service

Ophthalmic Dispensing

Student Health Center Optometry Services

Primary Care Externship *

Binocular Vision and Pediatrics Service

Clinical and Business Aspects of Practice **

Community Outreach Clinic

Contact Lens Service

Ophthalmology Practice or Co-management Center

Private Optometric Practice

Ocular Disease Externship *

Veteran's Administration Optometry Clinics

Advanced Practice Externship *

Ophthalmological practices and surgical co-management centers **OR**

Optometric offices with distinctive practice structures, unique settings, or noteworthy clinic services
OR

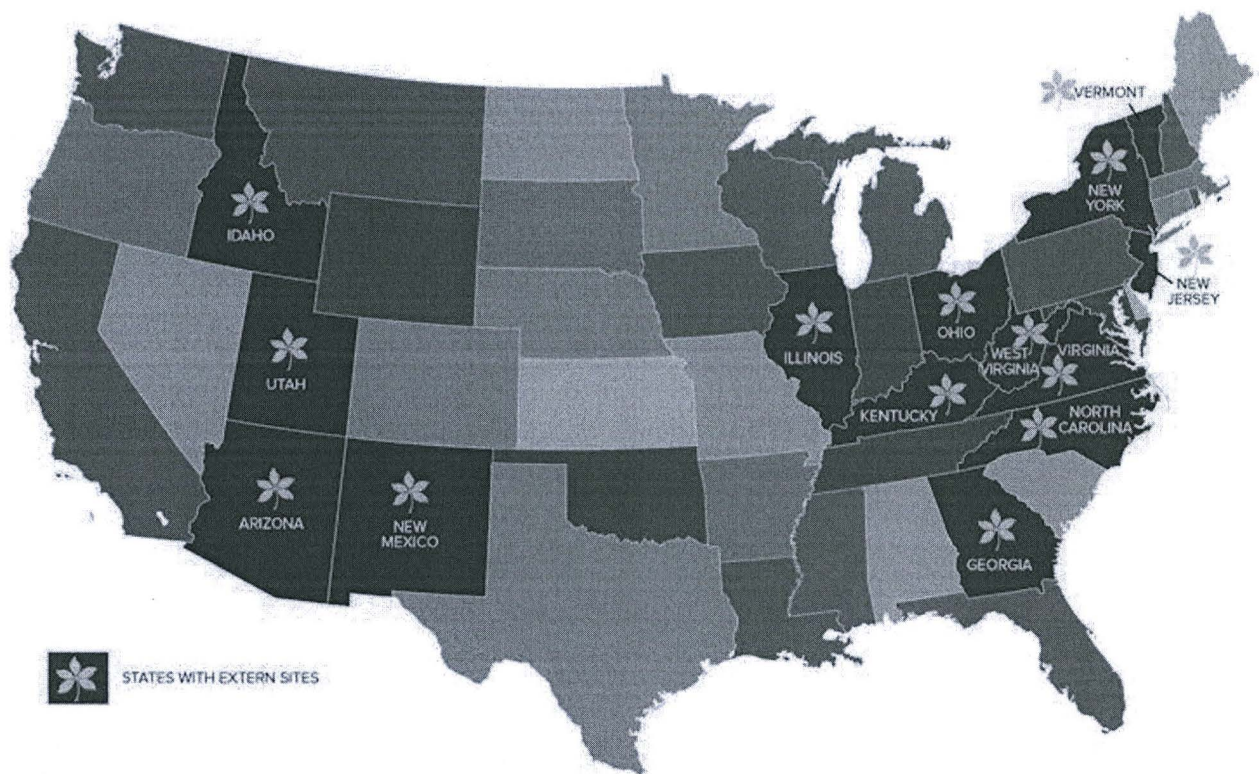
Indian Health Service (IHS) Eye Clinics

*** Direct Patient Care**

**** Practice Management Course**

Fourth Year Overview

The fourth year is divided into four 13 week rotations. Two rotations are in Columbus and the surrounding area and two are externships in locations around the US including: Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia.



In-House Internship

See a **diverse patient base** drawn from the campus, Ohio and surrounding states **while learning from faculty optometrists who are experts in specialties** including cornea and contact lenses, binocular vision, traumatic brain injury, retinal disorders, and low vision rehabilitation.

Each In-house rotation will include:

- Binocular Vision and Pediatrics
- Contact Lenses
- Low Vision Rehabilitation
- Eye Wear Gallery
- Student Health Center Optometry Services

Primary Care Externship

Experience a variety of practice settings gaining **broad exposure to contemporary primary eyecare** with special emphasis on adapting to diverse patient encounters in unique environments and areas of practice.

Each Primary Care Extern rotation will include:

- Private optometric office
- Private ophthalmology practice, ophthalmology referral center or clinic
- The Ohio State College of Optometry Community Outreach

Ocular Disease Externship

Train full-time at a Veterans Administration Optometry Clinic with special emphasis on patient populations with **ocular disease and ocular manifestations of systemic disease**.

Advanced Practice Externship

Choose a specified clinical areas of emphasis such as **medical and surgical co-management of ocular disease, eyecare delivery to specialized patient populations, or full scope, contemporary optometric practice.**

Options for Advanced Practice Extern rotations include:

- Ophthalmological practices and surgical co-management centers
- Optometric offices with distinctive practice structures, unique settings, or noteworthy clinic services
- Indian Health Service (IHS) Eye Clinics

The Curriculum Grid provides more information on credit hours and faculty.

About the College

Faculty & Staff

Admissions

(614) 292-2647

(866) 678-6446

Clinic

(614) 292-2020

Contact Us

HB 103 Optometry & Optometrists

195 practicing Optometrists in Alaska

119 Anchorage area

76 outlying cities

Anchorage – 119

Bethel – 2

Dillingham – 1

Eagle River – 11

Fairbanks – 19

Homer – 4

JBER – 1

Juneau – 7

Kenai – 5

Ketchikan – 2

Klawock – 1

Kodiak – 3

Kotzebue – 1

Nome – 4

Sitka – 2

Soldotna – 3

Wasilla – 10

Office of Rep. Ivy Spohnholz

ALASKA VILLAGES SERVED BY OPTOMETRISTS

Alakanuk	Ambler	Anaktuvuk Pass
Aniak	Atkasuk	Barrow
Bethel	Brevig Mission	Buckland
Chefornak	Chevak	Cordova
Delta Junction	Dillingham	Eek
Elim	Emmonak	Fort Yukon
Gambell	Glennallen	Goodnews Bay
Haines	Hoonah	Hooper Bay
Kake	Kaktovik	Kiana
King Salmon	Kipnuk	Kivalina
Kotlik	Kotzebue	Koyuk
Lower Kalskag	Manokotak	Marshall
Mountain Village	Naknek	Napakiak
Napaskiak	New Stuyahok	Newtok
Noatak	Nome	Noorvik
Nuiqsut	Nunapitchuk	Petersburg
Pilot Station	Point Hope	Quinhagak
Russian Mission	Sandpoint	Savoonga
Scammon Bay	Selawik	Seward
Shaktoolik	Skagway	St Mary's
St Michael	St Paul	Stebbins
Teller	Togiak	Toksook Bay
Tok	Tuntutuliak	Tununak
Unalakleet	Unalaska	Upper Kalskag
Valdez	Wainwright	Wrangell
Yakutat		

Compiled by Edward Godnig, OD, Anchorage



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BILL WALKER**

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Board of Examiners in Optometry (072)

NAME	APPOINTED	REAPPOINTED	EXPIRES
Barney, Paul (Anchorage) Optometrist	3/1/2011	3/1/2015	3/1/2019
Delzer, Damien (Fairbanks) Optometrist	3/1/2014		3/1/2018
Lingle, Eric (Douglas) Public	3/1/2014		3/1/2018
Steffes, Pamela (Sitka) Optometrist	3/1/2016		3/1/2020
Stralka, Stephen (Anchorage) Optometrist	11/25/2014	1/19/2015	3/1/2017

Board Fact Sheet

Mission Statement

Our purpose is to energize Alaska's spirit through self-determination and resource stewardship to improve the life of every Alaskan. Find out more about our *Core Values and Vision* ([pdf](#))



*SAFER COMMUNITIES
RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT
ECONOMIC SECURITY*

Office of Governor Bill Walker

3rd Floor, State Capitol
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 99811
Phone: (907) 465-3500
Fax: (907) 465-3532

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**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BILL WALKER**

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Board of Examiners in Optometry

Board: Board of Examiners in Optometry

Board identification number: 072

Department: COMMERCE, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Authority: AS 08.72.010

Status: Active

Sunset date: June 30, 2022

Requirements: Legislative Confirmation

Prohibitions: A member who has served all or part of two successive terms may not be reappointed unless four years have elapsed since the person last served. Public members cannot be engaged in, have a legal contract with a member of, or have a direct financial interest in the occupation that the board regulates.

Term: 4 years

Chair: Board selects.

Description: The board consists of 5 members appointed by the Governor: 4 licensed practicing optometrists who have been residents at least 3 years; plus 1 public member.

Function: The board works to regulate and control the practice of optometry and issues applications, licenses, and permits.

Special facts: Members serve at the pleasure of the Governor, and continue to do so until a successor is appointed. An appointment to fill a vacancy is for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Compensation: Standard Travel and Per Diem

Meetings: 2 times per year; 2 days total. Generally in May/June and January.

For further information and to reach individual members, contact:

Connie Petz

Occupational Licensing Examiner

Division of Occupational Licensing

Optometry . . . The Biggest Bang for the Malpractice Premium Buck

Many of the states introducing scope of practice expansion legislation have informed us that organized medicine and/or organized ophthalmology continue to make dire warnings of increased malpractice claims as a reason optometrists should not be granted additional scope authority. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

One only has to see print or electronic news coverage to know that there is a huge crisis in malpractice and malpractice professional liability coverage for **medical physicians**. The escalating problem of malpractice insurance premium rates for medical physicians makes liability reform one of the primary legislative targets of the American Medical Association (AMA) at both the state and Federal level. It is important to note that **malpractice premium rates are set by carriers based on their past experience with a provider group plus a reasonable profit for the carrier.**

According to the AMA, in many states medical liability premiums remain at, or near, all-time highs.

Liability premiums [for medical physicians] increased more than 1,029 percent throughout the country from 1976 through 2007—except in California. Medical liability premiums in many states, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut, are at levels more than double those of just a few years ago.¹

¹ See *The Case For Medical Liability Reform* at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/-1/case-for-mlr.pdf> [taken from the Internet 9/18/12]

Every medical malpractice carrier is required by Federal law to report malpractice payments made on behalf of healthcare providers to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB). The NPDB has compiled cumulative data on malpractice payments since the program began in September 1990. The report is available on the NPDB web site and **currently contains cumulative data on malpractice payments made for all classes of healthcare providers from September 1, 1990 through November 25, 2012; a total of 22 years, 3 months.** This aggregate data is broken down into the number of payments by class of provider by state. Listed below are the total numbers of malpractice payments made by carriers over the past 22 years, 3 months for the independent doctoral-level provider groups that are authorized by the state legislatures to prescribe drugs and treat disease:

Medical Physicians.....	276,384	[total payments over 22 years, 3 months]
Osteopathic Physicians	18,067	[total payments over 22 years, 3 months]
Dentists	47,190	[total payments over 22 years, 3 months]
Podiatrists	7,808	[total payments over 22 years, 3 months]
Optometrists	743	[total payments over 22 years, 3 months]

The fact is that only **743** reported malpractice payments made for optometrists in the past **22 years, 3 months clearly shows the excellent safe and effective track record of the profession of optometry.** How organized medicine can even hope to use a malpractice argument against legislation proposing to increase optometric scope of practice is hard to understand.

Malpractice insurance premiums for optometrists are, and remain, the lowest of any of the independent doctoral-level healthcare professions. These premium rates are lower than those paid by some non-doctoral supervised allied health professions such as nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

The rate for Territory CW1 in the American Optometric Association's (AOA) endorsed professional malpractice insurance plan (the rate group that encompasses the vast majority of states) is **\$528/year/\$2 million professional liability coverage** per incident (\$4 million annual aggregate) for optometrists in full-time private practice. **Not \$52,800, not \$5,280, but \$528 per year!** And for \$1 million professional liability coverage per incident (\$3 million annual aggregate) the premium rate drops to **\$451/year.** Most people pay more each month for their home mortgage or car payment than a Doctor of Optometry pays for an entire year's worth of professional malpractice liability coverage.

Malpractice liability does not occur for any of the healthcare professions based on scope of practice or prescriptive authority. You may be interested to know that in the AOA-endorsed insurance plan optometrists in Oklahoma and Kentucky (states with broad scope authority that includes surgery and lasers) and optometrists in Maryland (state with limited scope authority) are all included in Territory CW1. **Optometrists in each of these three states, that have widely varied scopes of practice, pay the exact same low premium rate of \$528/year.** Malpractice occurs primarily for two reasons: misdiagnosis (or lack of diagnosis) and bad/poor treatment outcomes. Malpractice does not occur based on scope of practice or prescriptive authority.

Malpractice rates are based on past experience plus a reasonable profit for the carrier. **Malpractice premium rates set so unbelievably low for optometrists confirm a low rate of actual occurrence of malpractice claims.**

Unfortunately, when some carriers face huge losses from the medical profession or from the carriers' investments, rates for optometrists may go up a bit as the cost of doing business for carriers may increase in general. In fact, some carriers may drop healthcare professional liability coverage altogether (this has happened in the past) and coverage for optometry may be discontinued by those carriers as part of this business decision.

The fact is that at a rate of \$528/year/\$2 million in coverage (and you can be assured the carriers are still making a comfortable profit) there is not much optometric malpractice occurring. This is a fact optometry can be proud of. According to the February 2004 issue of *Ophthalmology Management* (the last year we saw published data) the average malpractice premium for an ophthalmologist in 2003 was about \$15,000/year. When organized medicine raises the malpractice issue with a legislator tell them: *"I'll show you mine (rate), if you show me yours."* **Low premium rate = low occurrence.**

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Optometry

A Career Guide



ASCO ASSOCIATION of
SCHOOLS *and* COLLEGES
of OPTOMETRY

Acknowledgments

This career guide was written and compiled by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO). The guide was written to provide a "core document" that could represent the most current, consistent, and reliable information on optometry as a career for use by prospective students, prehealth advisors, and optometrists who want to share information about their profession with others. The material is intended for use by ASCO and its member schools and colleges in any format that will make information about optometry accessible and available to those who express interest in the profession.

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I. DEFINITION OF THE PROFESSION

"Doctors of optometry (ODs) are the independent primary health care professionals for the eye. Optometrists examine, diagnose, treat, and manage diseases, injuries, and disorders of the visual system, the eye, and associated structures as well as identify related systemic conditions affecting the eye" (American Optometric Association [AOA]).

Today, the profession of optometry involves much more than just prescribing and fitting glasses and contact lenses. ODs are trained to evaluate any patient's visual condition and to determine the best treatment for that condition. ODs are viewed increasingly as primary care providers for patients seeking ocular or visual care.

Conditions typically cared for by ODs are:

- » Corneal abrasions, ulcers, or infections; glaucoma; and other eye diseases that require treatment with pharmaceutical agents, management, and referral when necessary;
- » Visual skill problems such as the inability to move, align, fixate, and focus the ocular mechanism in such tasks as reading, driving, computer use, and in tasks related to hobbies and employment;
- » The inability to properly process and interpret information requiring perception, visualization, and retention such as that needed for most learning tasks;
- » Poor vision-body coordination when one interacts with the environment, as in sports, occupations, and other everyday activities requiring spatial judgments; and
- » Clarity problems such as simple nearsightedness or farsightedness or complications due to the aging process, disease, accident, or malfunction.

ODs also work to:

- » Diagnose, manage, and refer systemic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and others that are often first detected in the eye;
- » Provide presurgical and postsurgical care of cataracts, refractive laser treatment, retinal problems, and other conditions that require presurgical and postsurgical care; and
- » Encourage preventative measures such as monitoring infants' and children's visual development, evaluating job/school/hobby-related tasks, and promoting nutrition and hygiene education.

II. OUTLOOK FOR THE PROFESSION

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, job opportunities should be very good over the next decade. With favorable working conditions, regular hours, and a minimum of emergency calls, optometric careers offer many options and great freedom in choosing a location to live and practice. Optometrists provide the majority of primary vision care administered. Even people who may not require corrective eyewear need regular care to prevent, detect, and manage eye disease.

Population Changes and the Optometry Profession

The aging of the U.S. population has had two effects on the practice of optometry. First, many practicing optometrists are approaching retirement age. As the baby-boomer generation enters retirement, many aging optometrists are looking for younger doctors who can take over their practices or offer new areas of emphasis to their practices.

Second, as the population ages, optometry services will be in increasing demand. The growing numbers of senior citizens with age-related eye diseases such as cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, hypertensive retinopathy, and macular degeneration will require increased services from optometrists.

Senior citizens are in a better position to consult optometrists following a change in the Medicare law in 1987, which authorized reimbursement to optometrists. Primary eye care examinations for individuals over the age of 65 performed by optometrists have increased since the Medicare law was passed.

Another milestone in optometric care was the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Harkin Amendment that is part of the ACA made it against the law for health insurance companies to discriminate against optometrists for vision care. In addition, every insurance policy available must cover comprehensive eye exams for children up to age 18. This requirement is called the Pediatric Eye Care Essential Benefit.

Social and Legal Changes Affecting Optometry

ODs are highly valued by a population that is increasingly conscious of the benefits of good health and regular vision care. Rising personal incomes, ACA, and Medicare coverage for optometry services make regular eye care provided by optometrists even more desirable and affordable.

As society becomes more mechanized and digital, vision requirements become more exacting. The number of persons needing professional help for near-point visual tasks, including both older patients and school-children, is steadily growing. Increased demands for vision care result not only from population changes, but also from an increased understanding of how good vision relates to driving, workplace requirements, student achievement, leisure activities, adjustments to aging, and other areas crucial to a modern computer and technology-driven society.

Demand for optometry services is also expected to increase as state laws, which regulate optometric practice (similar to all medical professions), have expanded to place responsibilities for virtually all primary eye care services on optometrists. All states in the United States recognize that optometrists are trained to prescribe medications to treat eye diseases.

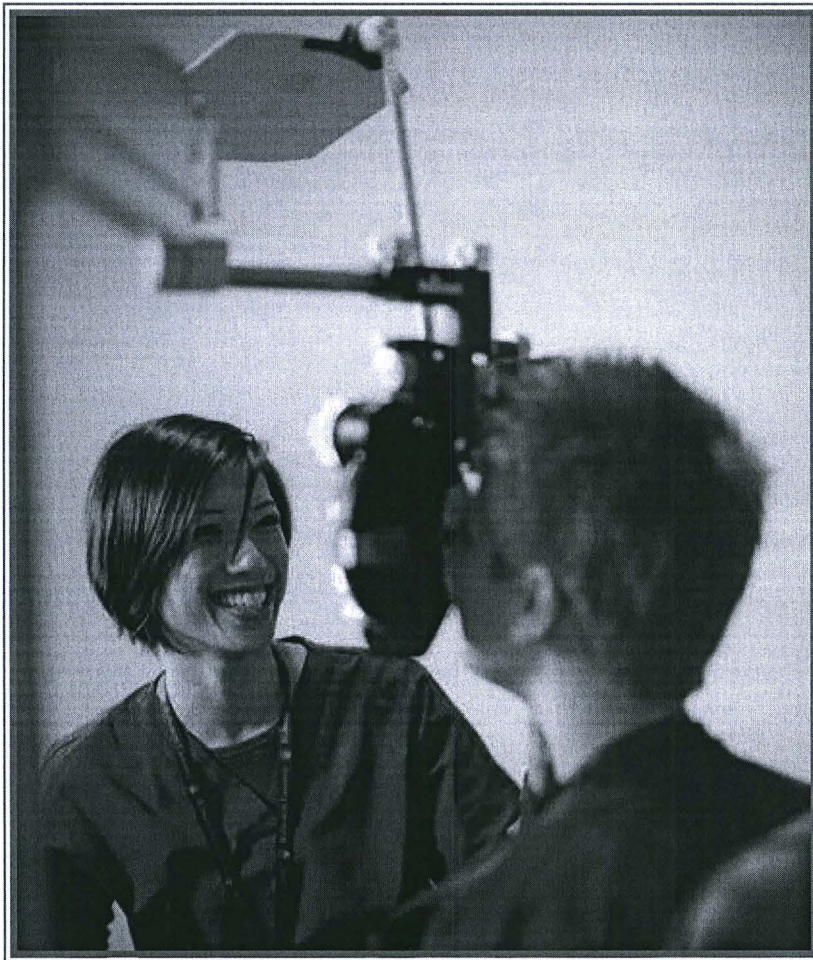
Most new opportunities for graduates are created by the retirement of optometrists, the establishment of new offices, the inclusion of optometrists in interdisciplinary practices, and the growth of group practices, in addition to the expanding scope of care provided by optometrists. There has also been an increase in the number of corporate optometry locations, which has created demand for optometrists.

The number of new practicing optometrists is limited by the fact that there are 23 schools and colleges of optometry in the United States and Puerto Rico, with two additional schools in Canada. Class sizes are restricted; therefore, the number of new graduates remains fairly constant. Federal data indicate employment of optometrists is projected to grow 27% through 2024. Because vision problems tend to occur more frequently later in life, an aging population will require more optometrists. As people age, they become more susceptible to conditions that impair vision such as cataracts and macular degeneration. In addition, an increasing number of insurance plans provide some vision or eye care coverage. Furthermore, the number of individuals, particularly children, who have vision or eye care insurance will increase as a result of federal health insurance reform legislation. More optometrists will be needed in order to provide services to more patients, as cited by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-2017 edition.

Professional Satisfaction

Practicing ODs experience keen satisfaction in their profession. The fact that many optometrists choose to practice on a part-time basis well into their retirement speaks highly of the rewards of the profession.

Adding to optometrists' satisfaction is the fact that they have a great work/life balance with a great salary. Over the years, optometrists have expanded their services to include more eye-health-related procedures, which assist their patients and have enabled their practices to grow.



III. NEW FRONTIERS IN EYE CARE

New technologies have helped the profession of optometry to expand both the scope and the efficiency of practice. Optometrists and their patients are benefiting from the many advances in eye care and medical technology.

There has been a significant increase in the use of new and relatively new lens treatments, designs, and corrective materials such as contact lenses. Today, millions of people wear contact lenses.

Lasers

Lasers have been used for many years for treating eye diseases (e.g., diabetes, macular degeneration, glaucoma, and some forms of cataracts) and for help with diagnosing visual problems. In recent years, the use of lasers to correct forms of refractive errors (near-sightedness, farsightedness, or astigmatism) has been increasing. Traditionally, these conditions were correctable only with glasses, contact lenses, and invasive surgery.

ODs play a key role in helping patients determine whether they are candidates for new procedures in laser surgery. When laser surgery is appropriate for a patient, optometrists provide nearly all preoperative and postoperative care. Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Louisiana were the first three states to allow optometrists to perform certain laser surgeries.

Instrumentation

Technology is rapidly improving diagnostic instruments used by all health care practitioners. More accurate and efficient test results enable ODs to better diagnose, manage, and treat eye disorders and diseases. Technology also helps optometrists educate patients about their conditions—long a hallmark of the profession—and allows patients to participate in their care and treatment decisions.

Medication

New medications are developed each year that optometrists use to treat diseases of the human eye. This area, perhaps more than any other, reinforces the need for a well-rounded continuing education because it serves as the foundation of an OD's lifelong service in a modern health care delivery system.

IV. MODES OF PRACTICE

Optometrists practice in many different kinds of situations and with different types of employers.

Individual Private Practice

The individual private practitioner usually is a primary care optometrist with a stand-alone practice. Such practitioners may specialize in fields such as:

- » Contact lenses,
- » Pediatrics,
- » Low vision/geriatrics, and
- » Vision therapy.

An individual practice may be in a variety of settings and locations, ranging from a free-standing to a professional building.

Partnership or Group Practice

This mode of practice is very similar to an individual practice except that there are two or more optometrists in the group. Each member of the group may specialize in a different area of practice. This is an increasingly popular form of practice.

Retail/Optical Settings

In this setting, optometrists usually rent space from or are employed by a large retail outlet. However, they remain independent practitioners.

Optometric/Ophthalmologic Professional Settings

The optometrist practices in conjunction with the ophthalmologist and comanages the patients in this setting.

Military/Public Health

Optometrists are commissioned officers who work in a hospital or clinical setting with other health care practitioners.

Interdisciplinary Care

The optometrist works with other health care practitioners in a hospital-based or clinic setting, such as in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital, as part of an interdisciplinary team.

Academic/Research

The OD teaches about primary care and/or performs research in a university setting. Academics pursue additional training after optometry school and have completed a residency, or a master of science or doctoral program.

Corporate/Industrial

Optometrists are employed by large corporations to perform clinical research or to provide patient care in a clinic within the corporate setting.

Consultants

Optometrists work as consultants to the ophthalmic industry, education, sports (high school to professional), and government.

V. INCOME POTENTIAL

Optometrists enjoy the benefits of financial security, independence, and recognition in their communities. Optometry is often rated an "excellent" career choice because of its expectations for job growth, earnings potential, and the opportunity for meaningful work and good quality of life.

The average net income from the practice of optometry was \$122,667 in 2014, according to a recent AOA survey of member optometrists.

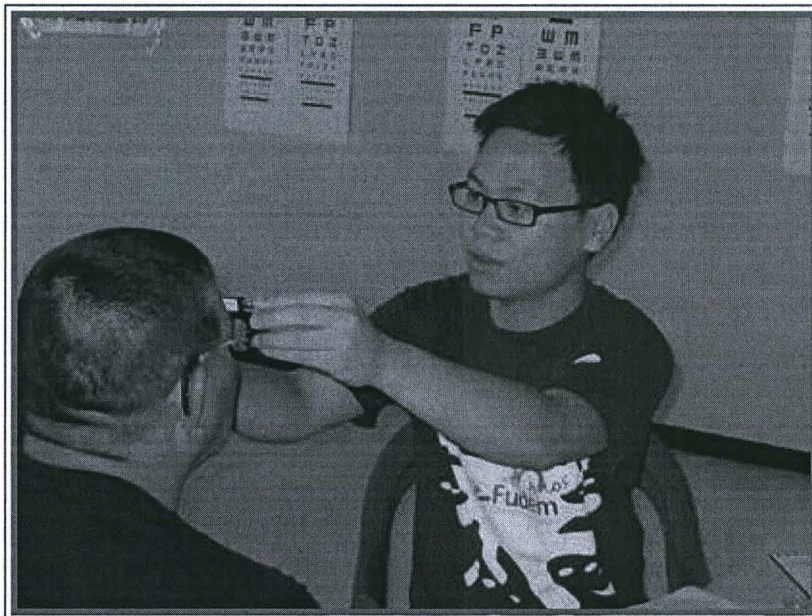


American Optometric Association

VI. OPTOMETRY AREAS OF EMPHASIS

Most ODs practice "full-scope," primary care optometry and treat and manage all forms of visual and ocular conditions. However, a practitioner may choose to concentrate his/her practice on treating a selected population or visual condition.

Residencies are not required to develop an area of emphasis. Because the four-year optometry curriculum prepares graduates in all areas, a residency does not introduce but enhances experience in a selected area.



These areas of emphasis include:

Family Practice Optometry: The clinical and didactic curricula will be devoted to topics and practice broadly represented in general optometric care. The patient population will include an age range from pediatric to geriatrics.

Primary Eye Care: The majority of the clinical and didactic curricula will be devoted to topics and practice relevant to the program's unique patient population. This patient population may be evident in the title, e.g., Primary Eye Care-Dept. of Veteran Affairs, Primary Eye Care-Indian Health Services.

Cornea and Contact Lenses: The majority of the clinical and didactic curricula will be devoted to topics and practice prevalent in the cornea and contact lens population.

Geriatric Optometry: The majority of the clinical and didactic curricula will be devoted to topics and practice prevalent in the geriatric population.

Pediatric Optometry: The majority of the clinical and didactic curricula will be devoted to topics and practice prevalent in the pediatric population.

Vision Therapy and Rehabilitation: The majority of the clinical and didactic curricula will be devoted to topics and practice relevant to dysfunctions of eye movement, accommodative, binocular and perceptual systems, reduced visual acuity, and compromised visual fields.

Low Vision Rehabilitation: The majority of the clinical and didactic curricula will be devoted to topics and practice relevant to low vision patients.

Ocular Disease: The majority of the clinical and didactic curricula will be devoted to topics and practice relevant to the diagnosis, management, and treatment of ocular disease.

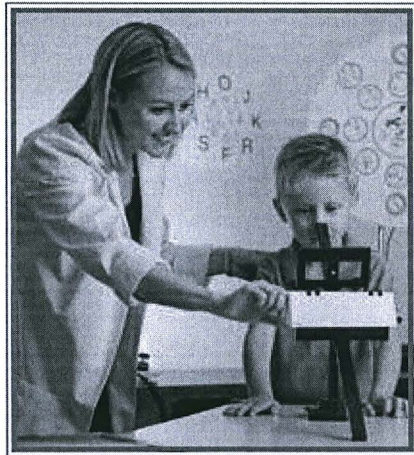
Refractive and Ocular Surgery: The majority of the clinical and didactic curricula will be devoted to topics and practice relevant to refractive and ocular surgery.

Community Health Optometry: The clinical and didactic curricula will be devoted to community-based optometric care with an emphasis on public health and cultural issues that impact care.

Brain Injury Rehabilitation: The majority of the clinical and didactic curricula will be devoted to topics and practice relevant to assessment, management, and interdisciplinary rehabilitation of patients with brain injury and neurologic disease.

VII. A TYPICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN OD

Each workday is different for ODs, and the scope and mode of practice in which the doctor are engaged can make the differences even more pronounced. If he/she specializes, the day is filled with evaluating new patients and providing the treatment particular to the area of emphasis. If the doctor is a member of a group practice, he/she may be the specialist in that group for certain kinds of patients or conditions. If the doctor



is involved in a more commercial practice or as an employee, he/she may be limited by the dictates of the corporation or employer. If the doctor chooses to provide care in a nursing home or makes house calls, the patient demands and instrumentation available to him/her are different from the doctor who consults in a hospital or a grade school. The self-employed doctor or a partner in a group practice can more easily set his/her own hours, whereas the doctor employed in other settings is less able to do so.

Most ODs are "generalists" and, assuming they provide full-scope primary optometric care, their day can be quite varied and challenging. Patient interaction can include performing routine visual exams, removing a foreign body from the cornea, evaluating a child who is not performing well in school, fitting contact lenses, prescribing medication for glaucoma, providing follow-up care after refractive surgery, and/or fitting a patient who is legally blind with a magnifying device that enables the patient to read.

Typically, the doctor works with a technician who administers preliminary tests, advises patients on the use and care of contact lenses, and assists patients in selecting frames. The doctor spends time with the patient, gathering more information, testing, making a diagnosis, determining the treatment required, and discussing the treatment regimen with the patient. The doctor records all information into the patient's record, dictating letters of referral if conditions such as diabetes or hypertension are detected or letters to schools reporting on a child's visual status. An office manager or receptionist (depending on the size of the practice) may take care of completing information required by the patient's health insurance provider.

VIII. FUNCTIONAL STANDARDS FOR AN ADMISSIONS CANDIDATE TO CONSIDER

Following are the Functional Standards for Didactic and Clinical Optometric Education. The Board of Directors of ASCO developed these standards in 1998 and revised them in 2009. Although developed for several reasons, the functional standards give prospective students an accurate idea of the skills required to perform the duties of an optometrist.

To provide guidance to those considering optometry as a profession, ASCO has established functional guidelines for optometric education. The ability to meet these guidelines, along with other criteria established by individual optometric institutions, is necessary for graduation from an optometric professional degree program.

One of the missions of each school and college of optometry is to produce graduates fully qualified to provide quality comprehensive eye care services to the public. To fulfill this mission, each institution must ensure that students demonstrate satisfactory knowledge and skill in the provision of optometric care. Admission committees, therefore, consider a candidate's capacity to function effectively in the academic and clinical environments, as well as a candidate's academic qualifications and personal attributes.

The functional guidelines in optometric education require that the candidate/student possess appropriate abilities in the following areas:

1. observation;
2. communication;
3. sensory and motor coordination;
4. intellectual-conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities; and
5. behavioral and social attributes. Each of these areas is described in this document.

In any case where a student's abilities in one of these areas are compromised, he or she must demonstrate alternative means and/or abilities to meet the functional requirements. It is expected that seeking and using such alternative means and/or abilities shall be the responsibility of the student. Upon receipt of the appropriate documentation, the school or college will be expected to provide reasonable assistance and accommodation to the student.

OBSERVATION ABILITIES

The student must be able to acquire a defined level of required knowledge as presented through lectures, laboratories, demonstrations, patient interaction and self-study. Acquiring this body of information necessitates the functional use of visual, auditory and somatic sensation enhanced by the functional use of other sensory modalities. Examples of these observational skills in which accurate information needs to be extracted in an efficient manner include:

Visual Abilities:

(as they relate to such things as visual acuity, color vision and binocularity)

- » Visualizing and reading information from papers, films, slides, video and computer displays
- » Observing optical, anatomic, physiologic and pharmacologic demonstrations and experiments
- » Discriminating microscopic images of tissue and microorganisms
- » Observing a patient and noting non-verbal signs
- » Discriminating numbers, images, and patterns associated with diagnostic tests and instruments
- » Visualizing specific ocular tissues in order to discern three-dimensional relationships, depth and color changes

Auditory Abilities:

- » Understanding verbal presentations in lecture, laboratory and patient settings
- » Recognizing and interpreting various sounds associated with laboratory experiments as well as diagnostic and therapeutic procedures

Tactile Abilities:

- » Palpating the eye and related areas to determine the integrity of the underlying structures
- » Palpating and feeling certain cardiovascular pulses

COMMUNICATION ABILITIES

The student must be able to communicate effectively, efficiently and sensitively with patients and their families, peers, staff, instructors and other members of the health care team. The student must be able to demonstrate established communication skills using traditional and alternative means. Examples of required communications skills include

- » Relating effectively and sensitively to patients, conveying compassion and empathy
- » Perceiving verbal and non-verbal communication such as sadness, worry, agitation and lack of comprehension from patients
- » Eliciting information from patients and observing changes in mood and activity
- » Communicating quickly, effectively and efficiently in oral and written English with patients and other members of the health care team
- » Reading and legibly recording observations, test results and management plans accurately
- » Completing assignments, patient records and correspondence accurately and in a timely manner

SENSORY AND MOTOR COORDINATION ABILITIES

Students must possess the sensory and motor skills necessary to perform an eye examination, including emergency care. In general, this requires sufficient exteroception sense (touch, pain, temperature, proprioceptive sense (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis, and vibratory) and fine motor function (significant coordination and manual dexterity using arms, wrists, hands and fingers). Examples of skill required include but are not limited to:

- » Instillation of ocular pharmaceutical agents
- » Insertion, removal and manipulation of contact lenses
- » Assessment of blood pressure and pulse
- » Removal of foreign objects from the cornea
- » Simultaneous manipulation of lenses, instruments and therapeutic agents and devices
- » Reasonable facility of movement
- » Injections into the eye, lids or limbs

INTELLECTUAL-CONCEPTUAL, INTEGRATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES

Problem solving, a most critical skill, is essential for optometric students and must be performed quickly, especially in emergency situations. In order to be an effective problem solver, the student must be able to accurately and efficiently utilize such abilities as measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, judgment, investigation, memory, numerical recognition and synthesis. Examples of these abilities include being able to:

- » Determine appropriate questions to be asked and clinical tests to be performed
- » Identify and analyze significant findings from history, examination, and other test data
- » Demonstrate good judgment and provide a reasonable assessment, diagnosis and management of patients
- » Retain, recall and obtain information in an efficient manner
- » Identify and communicate the limits of one's knowledge and skill

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES

The student must possess the necessary behavioral and social attributes for the study and practice of optometry. Examples of such attributes include:

- » Satisfactory emotional health required for full utilization of one's intellectual ability
- » High ethical standards and integrity
- » An empathy with patients and concern for their welfare
- » Commitment to the optometric profession and its standards
- » Effective interpersonal relationships with patients, peers and instructors
- » Professional demeanor
- » Effective functioning under varying degrees of stress and workload
- » Adaptability to changing environments and uncertainties
- » Positive acceptance of suggestions and constructive criticism

Candidates with questions or concerns about how their own conditions or disabilities might affect their ability to meet these functional guidelines are encouraged to meet with an optometry school counselor prior to submitting an application.

IX. THE OPTOMETRY CURRICULUM

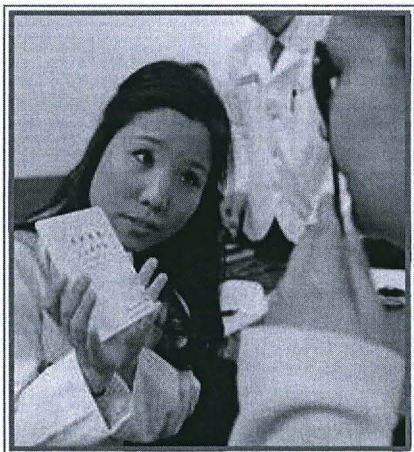
Students must successfully complete a four-year accredited degree program at a school or college of optometry to earn the OD degree.

The sequence of course work varies from one program to another, but some general characteristics are shared by all. In the first and second year of the professional program, course work is concentrated in the basic health sciences (anatomy, physiology, pathology, biochemistry, pharmacology, and public health), optics, and vision science. Students begin their clinical experience in a clinical simulation laboratory, with classmates serving as patients, and then proceed to clinical training with real patients. This training includes taking case histories, performing examinations, learning diagnostic techniques, and discussing treatment services.

In the third year, students spend part of their time in the classroom and part of their time in the clinic examining patients.

Fourth-year students continue their clinical training, which may include off-campus clinical externship rotations. Sites for rotation are available in the United States and abroad. Clinic settings include military facilities, VA hospitals, public health service hospitals, and various specialty and private practices. The lengths of the external rotations vary from eight to 16 weeks.

After successfully completing the fourth year, students graduate with an OD degree. To ensure a better understanding of the different educational programs, contact the specific schools or colleges of interest for curricular details.



Students graduating from schools and colleges of optometry have access to numerous resources that provide optometry practice (placement) opportunities. Students may obtain information from individual schools and colleges of optometry, state optometry associations, and the Optometry Career Center, which is housed at the AOA office in St. Louis, Mo., (www.aoa.org).

X. BECOMING LICENSED TO PRACTICE OPTOMETRY

Optometrists need to be licensed by the board of optometry in each state where they wish to practice optometry. Licensing assures that optometrists have met established standards of knowledge and are able to provide patient care. All states either accept or require passage of Parts I and II of the National Board examinations offered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO).

Part I (Applied Basic Science) tests epidemiology, patient's history, presenting symptoms and signs, clinical testing, diagnosis and pathophysiology knowledge obtained from the first two years of optometric study. Part II (Patient Assessment and Management) tests knowledge of clinical science through patient simulations.

Each state has its own set of regulations governing the practice of optometry, and many states also require an optometrist to take an examination that tests the applicant's knowledge of the laws of that state.

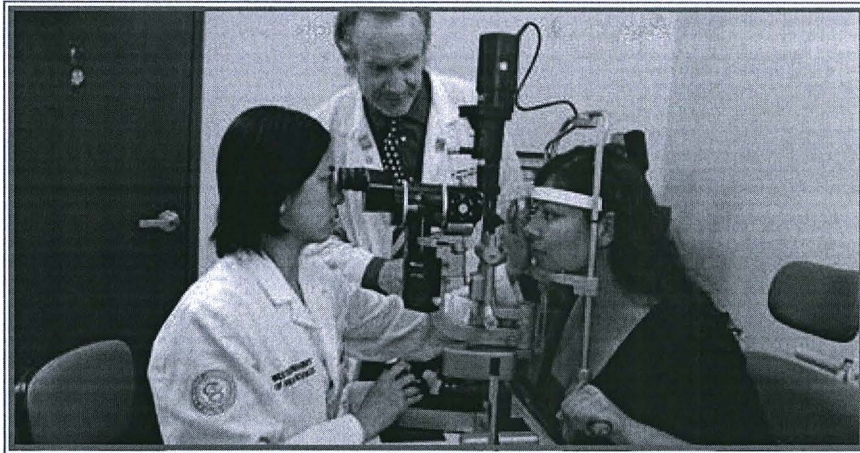
Student candidates in the final year of graduation at an accredited institution are eligible to take the Part III examination. While most student candidates will be taking this examination before they officially graduate, an individual candidate's official score report from the Part III examination will not be released until the National Board receives notification from the candidate's institution that the candidate has graduated and after the final graduation exercises of all the institutions accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education in the summer.

Periodic renewal of a license to practice optometry is required, depending on the state. Requirements for re-licensure can be fulfilled through continuing education or other modes.

Postgraduate Programs

Residencies

Residencies in the profession of optometry are optional and not required either for licensure or for the establishment of a specialty practice. The four-year OD degree encompasses all areas in which optometrists are licensed to practice. After a student receives the OD degree, residencies are typically one year in duration and the resident receives a salary during this course of clinical training. Most often, residencies are located within hospitals, VA facilities, outpatient clinics, or the clinical facilities of the various colleges and schools of optometry. Residencies vary within areas of emphasis and typically are identified by specific areas in the profession or at a location in which the area is emphasized. (See **VI. Optometry Areas of Emphasis**)



Graduate Degree Programs

Graduate programs are not required to be licensed to practice optometry. In fact, these programs usually are research-oriented and are for the individual interested in delving further into the "whys" and "hows" of the visual system.

A master's degree can be sought by someone who has an OD degree or who is simultaneously working on the OD degree. This individual usually plans to practice optometry but also wishes to be grounded in the basics of research to do some clinical research within his or her practice.

A PhD degree is most often sought by someone intending to go into full-time research and/or teaching. For those possessing a PhD, opportunities exist not only to teach and do research at a college or university but to engage in research within the corporate and government sectors. Individuals can enter these programs with or without an OD degree. Some choose to work on both the OD and the PhD at the same time, taking approximately six to seven years to complete both degrees.

Graduate degree programs at schools and colleges of optometry are identified by different names, but all emphasize and explore some aspect of vision and the visual and ocular system.

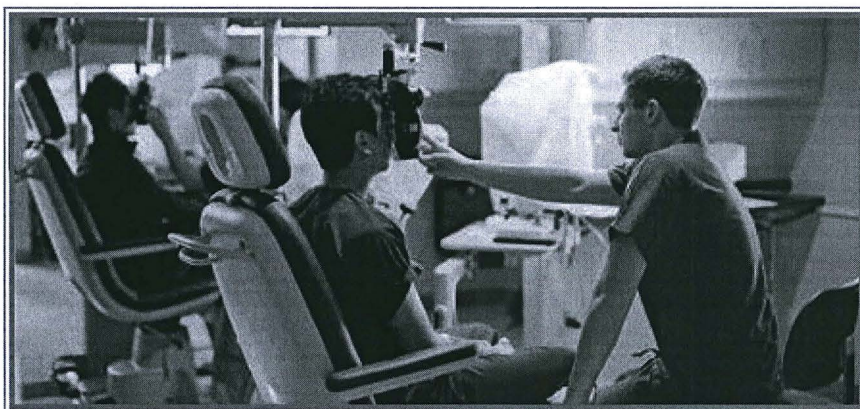
XI. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Because each optometry school may have slightly different admissions criteria, it is strongly recommended that applicants contact all the schools and colleges to which they are interested in applying. Each school can provide information on specific application deadlines, additional policies and procedures, class size, grade point average (GPA), Optometry Admissions Test (OAT) averages, international requirements, and tuition and fees considerations. A complete listing of the schools and colleges of optometry is provided by ASCO at www.opted.org.

No valid ranking of optometry schools exists. The best advice to a candidate is to obtain information from the individual schools, talk to recent graduates, visit selected schools, and ask pointed questions of faculty and students.

Candidates should be most concerned with the academic rigor of a program, the clinical experience offered, and the availability of faculty and support services. Of course, the cost of the program, availability of financial aid, and the location and environment of the college can be contributing factors in deciding which program is best suited to the candidate.

In general, colleges of optometry admit students who have demonstrated strong academic commitment and who exhibit the potential to excel in deductive reasoning, interpersonal communication, and empathy. Optometry schools are looking for well-rounded candidates who have achieved not only in the classroom but also in other areas. Leadership ability, a disposition to serve others, and a work ethic characterized by dedication and persistence are just a few of the qualities that impress most admission committees.



OptomCAS

Optometry's centralized application service (OptomCAS) launched in July 2009. OptomCAS allows optometry school applicants to use a single web-based application and one set of materials to apply to multiple schools and colleges of optometry. Applicants who apply through OptomCAS submit a completed web-based application comprised of biographical data, colleges and universities attended, academic course history, letters of recommendation, work experience, extracurricular activities, honors, and a personal essay. It is the applicant's responsibility to read and follow specific instructions for OptomCAS and the schools and colleges of optometry. More information can be found on the OptomCAS website at www.optomcas.org.

A student's academic evaluation is based on overall GPA, science GPA, college attended, degree progress, and course load difficulty. A bachelor's degree is not required by some optometry schools but is strongly preferred. Most students major in the natural sciences in college (e.g., biology, chemistry) because the prerequisites for optometry school are science intensive. However, prospective students can major in any degree discipline as long as they complete all of the prerequisite courses for optometry.

Listed below are the common prerequisite courses for most optometry schools:

- » General biology with labs,
- » General chemistry with labs,
- » Organic chemistry/biochemistry with labs,
- » General physics with labs,
- » Microbiology with labs,
- » Calculus,
- » Psychology,
- » Statistics,
- » English,
- » Social science, and
- » Other humanities.

Most schools consider an applicant's exposure to optometry to be of vital importance. Each applicant should become acquainted with at least one optometrist and if possible gain some firsthand experience to see what optometrists do on a daily basis. Most schools require personal interviews for admission, and experience/exposure to the field is often a topic for discussion.

Optometry Admission Test (OAT)

The OAT is sponsored by ASCO for applicants seeking admission to an optometry program. The 23 schools and colleges of optometry in the United States and Puerto Rico and the University of Waterloo, Canada, require applicants to take the OAT.

The OAT is a standardized examination designed to measure general academic ability and comprehension of scientific information. It consists of four subtests: Survey of the Natural Sciences (Biology, General Chemistry, and Organic Chemistry), Reading Comprehension, Physics, and Quantitative Reasoning. The OAT is scored on a 200-to 400-point scale in increments of 10. The national average for the test is generally between 300 and 310.

At least one year of college education, which should include courses in biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics, is required prior to taking the OAT. Most students, however, elect to complete two or more years of college prior to taking the exam.

The OAT exam is computerized, and examinees are allowed to take the OAT an unlimited number of times, but must wait at least 90 days between testing dates. Applicants who have three or more attempts must apply for permission to test again, and from that point forward may retest only once per twelve-month period. Scores from the four most recent attempts and the total number of attempts will be reported.

There is a fee to take the exam. You can register to take the OAT test online by going to the ASCO website at www.opted.org and clicking on **Optometry Admission Test**.



XII. FINANCING AN OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION

Students who are considering a career as an optometrist may be concerned that they do not have sufficient personal resources to cover all of the educational costs. The cost of attendance generally includes tuition, fees, books, equipment and supplies, and living expenses such as rent, groceries, insurance, and transportation. The majority of students finance their education by a combination of personal and family contributions, grants and scholarships, low- and high-interest loans, and work-study opportunities.

As the overall costs of optometric education continue to increase, it is important that prospective optometry students begin to investigate potential financial aid sources as early as possible. Because outside employment during optometry school is a limited option for the majority of students, and university sources of funds are also often limited, accepted applicants should contact their school's financial aid office early to explore their options and understand the school's financial aid policies and procedures.

Sources of Financial Aid

Accepted applicants should be aware of loans, scholarships, grants, and work-study, which provide the majority of aid to optometry students.

Loans, which are the primary source of financial aid for optometry students, must be repaid after graduation. Scholarships and grants, which are merit-based or need-based, do not require the recipient to repay the award. Work-study gives students the opportunity to work part-time. In addition, there are state contract programs, which pay a portion of a student's tuition, and U.S. Armed Forces' scholarship programs, which require a service commitment following graduation.

The following list presents an overview of the most commonly used federal sources of assistance. Applicants are cautioned that requirements for the various loan programs may change or programs may be eliminated based on actions of the government.



Loan Programs

- » Federal Perkins loan,
- » Federal Direct Loan Unsubsidized,
- » U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) Loans for Disadvantaged Students (LDS),
- » DHHS Health Professions Student Loan (HPSL),
- » Federal Graduate PLUS loans,
- » Private alternative loans, and
- » Institutional loan programs.

Scholarship Programs

- » DHHS Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS),
- » State contracts,
- » Military Health Professions Scholarship, and
- » Institutional scholarship programs.

Applying for Financial Aid

The federal government and the optometry schools sponsor the majority of financial aid money available to optometry students. The applicant should begin by contacting the optometry schools he/she would like to attend. They will provide the applicant with information on the programs they offer as well as forms and deadline dates. The following list identifies the forms and information generally required.

- 1. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

This is the most important form because the information from it is used to calculate the applicant's expected family contribution and to determine eligibility for federal sources of financial aid. The FAFSA asks for information about the applicant, the applicant's spouse, and the applicant's parents. Although an applicant may be financially independent from his/her parents, parents may still need to fill out sections of the FAFSA because certain financial aid programs require that this information be considered. This form is submitted online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. There is no processing fee for the FAFSA.
- 2. Institutional Application**

In addition to the FAFSA, optometry schools may require an institutional form, which is returned directly to the school. Schools do not charge processing fees for their financial aid forms.
- 3. Tax Returns**

Students can use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA to upload income tax data. Parental tax form copies may be requested for DHHS programs.
- 4. Certifications**

Students receiving funds, especially from federal sources, must attest to certain eligibility requirements. For example, the student will need to vouch that funds were used only for educational purposes, that the student is not in default on a loan or does not owe a refund on a grant, and that the student is in compliance with Selective Service registration requirements.

Managing Educational Indebtedness

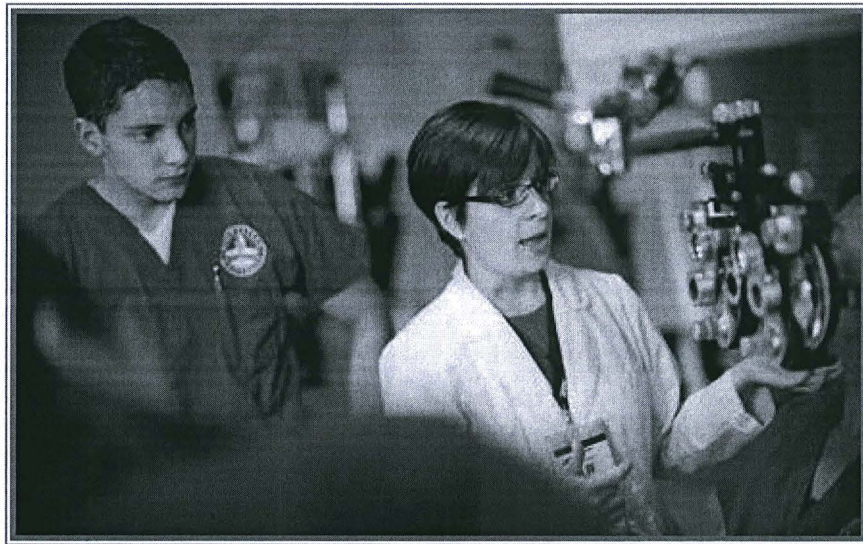
The majority of optometry students borrow to pay for the cost of their education. Borrowing means the student has the benefit of using someone else's money now in exchange for paying it back with interest at a later date. Students are legally obligated to repay their loans. Defaulting on a student loan has financial and legal consequences that can have negative personal and professional effects. The vast majority of optometry graduates repay their loans either on time or early. The financial aid office at a specific college can provide information on management of a student's debt.

Resources:

American Optometric Association, <http://www.aoa.org/> April 2015.

American Optometric Association. *2014 Survey of Optometric Practice*. St. Louis, MO.

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Occupational Outlook Handbook, Edition 2016-2017*. Washington, DC.





Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

6110 Executive Blvd, Suite 420

Rockville, MD 20852

p: (301) 231-5944

f: (301) 770-1828



NORTHEASTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY

Representative Ivy Spohnholz
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801
March 18, 2017

RE: HB 103

Dear Representative Spohnholz,

As a comprehensive ophthalmologist in practice in rural America for over two decades, I have been asked by the respected members of the Alaska Optometric Association to respond to a series of misleading statements that have recently been directed to members of the Alaska State Legislature and circulated through the local media. Unlike most of the individuals making claims with regards to education in our nation's colleges of optometry, I am a graduate of both one of our nation's premier programs in clinical optometry, The Oklahoma College of Optometry at Northeastern State University, as well as the Oklahoma State University Health Science Center's College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, one of the top-ranked medical programs when it comes to rural medicine and primary care.

I followed this by completing a residency in ophthalmology and ophthalmic surgery at OSU-Tulsa. I have also been a professor, surgeon, and clinical faculty member at the Oklahoma College of Optometry for almost 18 years. Having trained in both optometry and ophthalmology, my perspective is formed from direct observation and daily experience, not from ostensible measures of speculation grounded in a politically crafted agenda of turf protection or self-serving ideology.

As an ophthalmologist, I am embarrassed that some of my colleagues are again resorting to deride the profession of optometry. These innuendos are part of a decades-old campaign which fails time and time again to recognize the expansion and maturation of the entirety of the optometric profession, with respect to the growth of the optometric, medical, and scientific knowledge base, evolved patterns of evidence-based care, and technological innovation. Optometry is a learned profession with over 150 years of humanitarian service to the American public. Optometry is an independent healthcare profession which has matured and evolved alongside the other health professions.

These types of unprofessional "scare tactics" are completely inappropriate and demonstrates a lack of respect for the members of the Alaska Legislature. Mockingly throwing professional dispersions your way, as if Alaska legislators are not sophisticated enough to understand the high standards and rigorous educational processes, state and national board examinations and certifications that young and aspiring students, 2/3 of which are women, must go through to become licensed doctors of optometry. These misstatements take the form of "optometrists didn't go to medical school", or "optometrists receive no hands-on training". Individuals making such statements are, respectfully, naïve and highly misinformed.

Oklahoma College of Optometry

1001 N. Grand Ave. | Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74464 | P 918.444.4000 | F 918.458.2104

www.nsuok.edu

With respect to my fellow ophthalmologists who think they know what modern optometric education is all about (without ever having stepped foot in an optometry school), I offer the following evidence-based facts. Following college where the majority of applicants to optometry school have completed a four-year baccalaureate degree, future optometrists complete a comprehensive and robust 4-year professional program which, like medical school, includes didactic instruction in the basic and clinical sciences. As a matter of fact, in several optometry programs across the nation optometry students sit side by side with medical students in the same classroom or with the same professor at Universities that offer both doctorates in optometry and medicine.

Similar to an ophthalmology residency, the professional optometry program includes years of supervised clinical practice. After graduation, many optometrists take on an additional 1 or 2 years of post-graduate work. Northeastern State University, for example, offers both 1 and 2-year post-graduate residencies with areas of focus that include advanced disease management. I know of many optometric physicians that have also completed fellowship programs beyond residency in intense areas of focus such as glaucoma, cornea, and retina; fellowships offered under specialized ophthalmologists.

I've been asked to comment on how optometrists learn new procedures or pick up new skills that were not available during their time in optometry school. The simple answer is the same way every other physician, dentist, advanced practice nurse, or other healthcare provider or professional does. By attending continuing education programs, workshops, and a lot of due diligence and independent study.

Optometry is an independent health care profession. Optometry is a noble profession that treats and attends to the visual and healthcare needs of the vast majority of Alaskans. After more than a century and a half of service, it has earned the right to chart its course, look to its future, and to remain accountable to society. Optometry adheres to the same high moral and ethical standards that the other learned-health professions do. Optometry has always sought to keep the welfare of the patient above all else.

And yet, no other independent doctoral-level health profession has been subjected to such a high degree of obstructionism and attempted derailment by another independent profession as has optometry. Neither dentistry nor podiatry has had to endure the same amount of seemingly endless dispirited commentary. Fortunately, the forthcoming decision is in the hands of the objective and clear-minded representatives of all the citizens of Alaska. And it is in their sole interest that decisions that seek to advance the public welfare are best served.

Respectfully,

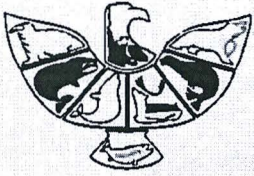


Richard E. Castillo, OD, DO

Richard E. Castillo, OD, DO
OPHTHALMOLOGY & PROCEDURAL OPTOMETRY
Director, The Center for Advanced Practice Optometry
Assistant Dean/Surgical Training & Education
NSU | The Oklahoma College of Optometry
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castillo@neuhk.edu

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Alaska Native Health Board

THE VOICE OF ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH SINCE 1968

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March 17, 2017

The Honorable Ivy Spohnholz
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 421
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Support for HB 103, "An Act relating to the practice of optometry."

Dear Representative Spohnholz:

On behalf of Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB), I am writing in support of House Bill No. 103, regarding optometry in Alaska. Established in 1968, Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) serves as the statewide voice on Alaska Native health issues. ANHB is a 28-member representing tribes and tribal organizations carrying out health services on behalf of the 229 federally recognized Tribes in Alaska. ANHB's purpose is to promote the spiritual, physical, mental, social and cultural well-being and pride of Alaska Native people. As the statewide tribal health advocacy organization, ANHB assists tribal partners, state and federal agencies with achieving effective communication and consultation with tribes and their tribal health programs.

HB 103 updates the Alaska optometry statues, making them similar to the dentistry and advanced practice nursing statues, 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.

HB 103 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 support House Bill 103.

Sincerely,

Verné Boerner
ANHB President and CEO

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF
ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

ARCTIC SLOPE
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

BRISTOL BAY AREA
HEALTH CORPORATION

CHICKALDON VILLAGE
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

CHUGACHMIUT

COPPER RIVER
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL OF
ATHABASCAN
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

EASTERN ALEUTIAN
TRIBES

KARLUK IRA
TRIBAL COUNCIL

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE

KETCHIKAN
INDIAN COMMUNITY

KODIAK AREA
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

MANILAQA ASSOCIATION

METLAKATLA INDIAN
COMMUNITY

MT. SANFORD
TRIBAL CONSORTIUM

NATIVE VILLAGE
OF EKLUKNA

NATIVE VILLAGE
OF EYAK

NATIVE VILLAGE
OF TYONEK

NINILCHIK
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

NORTON SOUND
HEALTH CORPORATION

SELDOVIA
VILLAGE TRIBE

SOUTHCENTRAL
FOUNDATION

SOUTHEAST ALASKA
REGIONAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM

TANANA CHIEFS
CONFERENCE

YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM
HEALTH CORPORATION

VALDEZ NATIVE TRIBE



February 22, 2017

The Honorable Ivy Spohnholz
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 421
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Support for HB 103, "An Act relating to the practice of optometry."

Dear Representative Spohnholz:

On behalf of Southcentral Foundation (SCF), I am writing in support of House Bill No. 103, 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.

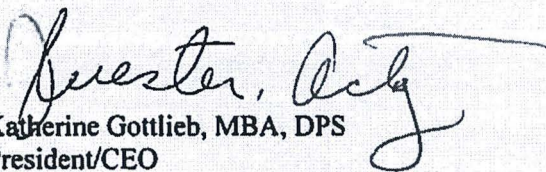
HB 103 updates the Alaska optometry statues, making them similar to the dentistry and advanced practice nursing statues, wherein the state board determines the regulatory details of practice, rather than setting them out in statute. This allows the state board more flexibility as technology advances and new modern treatment or procedures for patients become available. It also maintains the authority to protect the public.

HB 103 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 support House Bill 103.

Sincerely,

SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION


Katherine Gottlieb, MBA, DPS
President/CEO

[REDACTED]

From: Andrea Eberle <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 9:15 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Dear Representative Spohnholz,

Please support House Bill 103. The Alaska optometry board should have the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing. This will allow Optometrists to be able to practice at the full scope of our education.

Thank you so much for your support of this important legislation for my professional career.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrea Eberle

[REDACTED]

From: Lynn [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 6:27 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: Please Support HB 103

Dear Representative Spohnholz,

I am currently an optometrist in Wasilla, Alaska. I have been practicing in Wasilla for the past 33 years.

During the current legislative session, SB 36 and HB 103 have been introduced to again address the issue of the scope of optometric practice. Current Alaska optometric statutes and regulations are antiquated in terms of the scope of education and training of today's optometrist. The optometry board is the proper seat of authority to regulate the practice of optometry, the same as the other prescribing health care professions of medicine, dentistry, and nursing. The board should determine the full scope of optometric practice as defined by our training and education. This legislation will remove the legislative action currently necessary for optometric practice expansion.

Please support HB 103 when it appears in the House.

If I can be of further help, please contact me.

Respectfully,

Lynn

Lynn J. Coon, OD, FAAO
Valley Eye Associates, P.C.
935 E. Westpoint Dr. Suite 207
Wasilla, AK 99654
Office: 907-373-0225
Fax: 907-373-7776

[REDACTED]

From: Dr. Elizabeth Lane [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 3:00 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Dear Representatives,

I'm writing to request your support for HB 103.

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 HB 103.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Lane Bow, OD
907-250-4225

[REDACTED]

From: Kathleen Powell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 2:15 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Dear Representatives,

I am respectfully requesting your support for House Bill 103.

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. Doctors of Optometry have 8 or more years of college with optional 1-2 years of residency.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Powell, O.D.
Anchorage

[REDACTED]

From: Jeffrey Mattson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 2:06 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Hello Representative,

My name is Jeffrey Mattson, I am an optometrist who practices in Anchorage, AK and I am asking your support of House Bill 103.

House Bill 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.

The state board would never authorize optometrists to do anything beyond their scope of education and training, as is clearly stated in House Bill 103.

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 House Bill 103.

Jeffrey Mattson, O.D.

[REDACTED]

From: Jim Falconer [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 1:39 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Please Support HB 103

Dear Representative,

As an optometrist in Alaska, I am writing you to ask that you please support HB 103, which gives broader authority to the state optometry board to determine the scope of practice for optometry in Alaska. We have a long history of taking good care of our patients, and it is certainly not in our interest to allow doctors of optometry to practice beyond their level of training. The goal of this bill is simply to allow us to broaden the scope of practice for optometrists as new medications and procedures become available which are not explicitly written into our current law regulating optometry.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James C. Falconer, OD

[REDACTED]

From: John Demske [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 1:28 PM
Subject: HB 103

Hello Representative Spohnholz,

I am writing to inform you that I fully support HB 103, the bill that gives autonomy to the Alaskan Board of Optometry and allows doctors of optometry to practice as taught in their university training.

I have been practicing optometry in Alaska since 1978, in Soldotna since 1983 and this bill is long overdue. Other health professionals with less university training have an autonomous board.

The optometrists of Alaska would appreciate your support of this bill.

Thank you for introducing HB 103.

John Demske, O.D.

Soldotna Alaska

907-262-3168

From: Erik Christianson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 12:56 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Cc: 'Elizabeth Stevens'; 'Pam Christianson'; Rick Swearingen, O.D.
Subject: Letter of support for HB 103

Alaska House Members,

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 entire professional career (currently 30 years...yikes) 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 greatly 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. HB 103 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 HB 103. HB 103 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 HB 103. HB 103 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 HB 103 feel free to contact me

Once again, thank you for your support of HB 103.

Erik D. Christianson, O.D.

Ketchikan Eye Care Center

351 Carlanna Lake Rd

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

[REDACTED]

From: David Holdgrafer [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 12:49 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Please Support Optometry bill Hb 103

Greetings Representatives,

I would appreciate it if you would lend your support to Hb 103 in the House.

Thanks for your time and best regards,

--

David J Holdgrafer OD

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

djholdgrafer@gmail.com

[REDACTED]

From: Jeremy Fulk [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 12:45 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Support HB 103

Dear Representative,

Please support HB 103 for the following reasons:

- 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 treats the majority of eye patients all over Alaska including remote areas.
- The optometry board deserves the same respect as the other boards.
- The Alaska optometry law needs to be updated.
- Optometrists should be able to practice at the full scope of our education.
- Doctors of Optometry have 8 or more years of college and optional 1-2 years residency.

Sincerely,

Jeremy C. Fulk O.D.

Eye Clinic of Fairbanks

116 Minnie St., Fairbanks, AK 99701

907-456-7760 Ext. 258

jfulk@eveclinicfbks.com

jcfulk@outlook.com

Service Number

From: Jerimiah Myers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 12:29 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: Support HB 103

Dear Representative:

Having done eye care in the bush of Alaska for some 30 years, our profession finds this legislation a necessity to give the best care for our Alaskans.

Thank you for your attention to this.

- 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 treats the majority of eye patients all over Alaska including remote areas.
- The optometry board deserves the same respect as the other boards.
- The Alaska optometry law needs to be updated.
- Optometrists should be able to practice at the full scope of our education.
- Doctors of Optometry have 8 or more years of college and optional 1-2 years residency.

Once again, thank you for your support of this important legislation.

*Dr. Jerimiah Myers
PO Box 1948
Kodiak, AK 99615*

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

From: Dr. Laura Kompkoff <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:22 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Please support HB103. Doctors of Optometry want to provide the best care for our patients, and that includes the most safe and up-to-date care in which we are trained. Our education includes a 4-year doctorate program following an undergraduate education, National and State Board examinations, and Continuing Education. The Dentists of Alaska have successfully brought the best and most up to date oral health to Alaskans by successfully governing their own board. Like the Alaskan Dentists, Optometrists provide healthcare all over the state which makes it imperative to keep up with the most advanced care without delay most often caused by having to turn to the legislative body when technology and research changes. Alaska has always strived for the most up to date healthcare for its residents. In today's world, advances are learned and expected from healthcare providers at a quicker rate than ever. Please help us give the best care to Alaskans. Thank you for your support!

Laura Kompkoff, O.D.

Katmai Eye and Vision Center

Katmaieye.com

907-334-3937

[REDACTED]

From: Dr. Sheryl Lentfer [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 4:00 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: HB103

Please support HB103. As a practicing Optometrist for 20 years in Anchorage, we are asking to be able to run our own board. Our education includes a 4 years doctorate program (after an undergraduate college degree and National entrance examination) and, governed and approved continuing education. The Dentists have successfully brought the best and most up to date oral health to Alaskans by successfully governing their own practitioners. They do not have to go through the state legislative body to provide patients the best of care as healthcare advances. Optometrists provide healthcare all over the state and in a timely manner. Alaska has always strived for the most up to date healthcare for its residence, and in today's world, advances are learned about and expected from healthcare providers at a quicker rate than ever. Like the doctors of Dentistry, Doctors of Optometry want to provide the best care for our patients, and that includes the most safe and up-to-date care in which we are trained. Thank you for your support!

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

JEFF GONNASON, O.D.

A member of *Vision Source*

2211 E. Northern Lights Blvd. STE 202 - Anchorage, AK 99508

Dr. Jeff Gonnason
Doctor of Optometry
Phone: 907-276-2080
Fax: 907-276-2081

E-mail: alaskavisionsource@gmail.com
www.gonnason.com

February 14, 2017

Representative Ivy Spohnholz
Chair Health & Social Services
Alaska State Legislature

RE: **HOUSE BILL 103**

- **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.

- **Optometry education and training is identical to the dentistry model with 8-10 years of university level education and residency:**

4 year professional program after acceptance, with the first 2 years of sciences and final 2 years of clinical experience. 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 no issues.

- **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" under federal 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 dramatic public harm which has never been true.

JEFF GONNASON, O.D.

A member of *Vision Source*

2211 E. Northern Lights Blvd. STE 202 - Anchorage, AK 99508

Dr. Jeff Gonnason
Doctor of Optometry
Phone: 907-276-2080
Fax: 907-276-2081

E-mail: alaskavisionsource@gmail.com
www.gonnason.com

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

Optometry are trained in very few of the procedures that ophthalmologists do. 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 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 "drama & scare tactics" trying to frighten legislators in their turf battle. Risk of harm to the public has never been an issue.

- **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 at rural clinics for their expertise. Travel and treatment costs greatly increase when routine primary care 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.

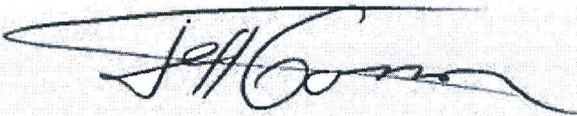
- **In reality, optometry and most ophthalmology specialists currently work very well together:**

Both daily collaborate care and co-manage surgical patients all over Alaska. The actual opposition comes from only a handful of local ophthalmology & medical political leaders, but mainly from their Outside national "Academy" with flamboyant and appalling claims of disaster. Their disrespect for optometry is unwarranted.

- **To be absolutely clear, this bill 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 new 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 professions.

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 Volunteer for the American Optometric Association

[REDACTED]

From: Rob Fleckenstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:09 AM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: Please Support HB 103

Hello, my name is Rob Fleckenstein, O.D., and I am a practicing Optometrist in Eagle River. I'm asking for your support of HB 103 for the following reasons:

- 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 treats the majority of eye patients all over Alaska including remote areas.
- The optometry board deserves the same respect as the other boards.
- The Alaska optometry law needs to be updated.
- Optometrists should be able to practice at the full scope of our education.
- Doctors of Optometry have 8 or more years of college and optional 1-2 years residency.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rob

ROBERT J. FLECKENSTEIN, O.D.

Vision Source

Eagle River Vision Clinic

16331 Heritage Pl. #104

EAGLE RIVER, AK, 99577

T: 907-694-2511

F: 907-694-3900

www.ervc.com

[REDACTED]

From: Ashley Kettler [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 11:25 AM
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

My name is Ashley Kettler and I was born and raised in Wrangell, Alaska. After **8 years of college education to receive a doctorate in optometry**, I have returned to my home state and kindly request that you support HB 103

- Optometrists treats the majority of eye patients all over Alaska including remote areas.
- 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

Thank you for your time,

Ashley Kettler, O.D.



February 9, 2017

House Health and Social Services Committee
House Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Robert Ford, MD
President, CEO
Debbie Eldredge
Executive VP, COO

DIRECTORS

Bruce Alves
Building & Equipment
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Gordon Johns, MD
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Aaron Bronner, OD
Kimberly Browne, OD
Rick Busk, OD
Kim Cahan-Holt, OD
Brian Carey, MD
Joyce Choe, MD, MPH
Paul Chung, MD
Shaun Coombs, OD
Melissa Dacumos, OD
Mark Ewert, OD
Bruce Flint, OD
Marshall Ford, MD
Robert Ford, MD
David Gant, MD
Robert Gibbs, OD
Michael Glazer, OD
William Gruzensky, MD
James Guzek, MD
Amit Hukverson, OD
Doug Hansen, OD
Gordon Johns, MD
Brien Johnson, OD
Myung Jung, OD
Oliver Kuhn-Wilken, OD
Justin Leng, MD
Bradley Lightfoot, OD
Reid Marmya, OD
Mark Marston, OD, MS
Jeffrey Mattson, OD
Aibigail Neal, OD
Maynard Pohl, OD
Jenny Rammy, OD
Victoria Roen, OD
Daniel Schrampp, OD
Loren Soery, MD
David Stanfield, OD
Ronald Sugiyama, MD
Michael Van Brocklin, OD
Sasha Williams, OD

SPECIALIZING IN
Cataract Surgery and
Laser Vision Correction

Dear Representatives Spohnholz, Kito, Edgmon, Wool, Tarr, Eastman, Johnston, Sullivan, Josephson, Stutes, Birch, Knopp, Chenault, Claman, and Saddler,

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 HB-103, an Alaska House 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. HB-103 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, HB-103 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 HB-103 would not put the citizens of Alaska at risk.

Again, I respectfully ask for your support of HB-103.

Paul M. Barney, O.D.

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

OFFICE LOCATIONS IN

ALASKA · IDAHO · MONTANA · NEW MEXICO · OREGON · WASHINGTON

[REDACTED]

From: Kara Frank [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 9:00 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Request of support for HB 103

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 HB 103.

This bill is important to our profession as it allows optometrists to practice within the full scope of our training and education. We went to school for eight years and completed two years of residency training in ocular disease. Our current legislation limits our abilities to practice to our full potential, which means we're not as useful to the public as we could be. This is especially true because optometrists treat the majority of eye patients all over the state, particularly in rural areas. The Alaska optometry law needs to be updated.

HB 103 is also important because it grants the optometry board to regulate the practice, just as other prescribing health professionals are allowed to regulate their own professions. The optometry board deserves the same respect.

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

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

[REDACTED]

From: Andrew Peter O.D. [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 6:47 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: HB103

Ivy,

Thank you for sponsoring HB103.

Soon, you will hear details on HB 103. 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...with no sign of slowing up. These changes in medicine include imaging, medicine, and pathology diagnosis. For example, optometrists uses retinal laser imaging that -only a few years ago- was available only in academic institutions. Radiofrequency technology is chosen for lesion removal near eyes and lids. Injectable medications are commonly used for treatment of inflammation and diabetes. Lasers are used for treatment of secondary cataracts and preventative treatment of glaucoma. This makes a difference; it provides convenience to patients, allows access to quality of care in rural areas, and reduces costs. A win-win. Some of these techniques are being performed in Alaska...some are currently only allowed in other rural states.

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 providers to be nimble with emerging technologies.

Populations are getting older. Costs are expanding. We must be prepared to provide appropriate care, in a timely manner, at reasonable cost.

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

[REDACTED]

From: Nicole Berhow [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 12:25 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Hello Representative,

I am an Optometrist practicing in Anchorage since 1997. Please Support Optometry HB 103. 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

[REDACTED]

From: Joshua Cook [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 9:26 AM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Dear HSS and L&C Committee Member,

I would like to extend my support for HB 103.

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. This is a very simple bill and simply allows us the same respect as other boards in our state and will enhance the care of our patients.

I thank you for your consideration of HB 103.

Best regards,

Joshua Cook, OD

[REDACTED]

From: victoria blower [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 5:50 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: HB 103

Dear Members of HSS and Labor and Commerce Committees,

I encourage you to consider the merits of HB 103 and vote for it's passage.

Optometry is a noble healthcare profession with extensive specialized training in the health, performance and treatment of ocular conditions. Doctors of Optometry have 8 or more years of education. The profession has a long track record of safety, sound professional judgment and service to the Alaskan citizenry. Optometrists are the primary eyecare providers within our state, both in urban and rural settings.

The optometry board should have the authority and respect to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing. Let's update the Alaska optometry law.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Victoria Blower, O.D.
Accurate Vision Clinic
Care as Personal as it is Effective
207 E. Northern Lights Blvd
Suite 101
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-272-9800
victoria_blower@hotmail.com

[REDACTED]

From: Jessica Giesey [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 4:57 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Dear Representatives,

I am an optometrist practicing in Anchorage and I am writing in support of HB 103. Optometrists play a vital role in delivering eye care to patients all over the state. I believe that myself and my Alaskan colleagues have worked earnestly to deliver the best care possible to the people of Alaska and have thereby earned the trust of the communities we serve. We should have the ability to regulate our own board just as many other health professions in the state do like medicine, nursing, and dentistry and we should be able to practice the full scope of our training and education. Thank you for your time and consideration of HB 103 and have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,

Jessica Giesey, O.D.

[REDACTED]

From: David Karpik [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 4:44 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: Thank you for HB 103, Optometry

Representative Spohnholz,

I'd like to express my appreciation to you for sponsoring HB 103, which will optimize patient care and access to optometry services! This statute will allow for regulations that are always current in an ever-evolving and advancing health care environment.

Sincerely,
David Karpik, OD
Kenai Vision Center
Past President, Alaska Optometric Association
Medical Director, Vision Source Alaska <http://visionsource.com/alaska/>

[REDACTED]

From: Damien Delzer [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 12:42 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: Support Optometry HB 103

Dear Chairperson Spohnholz,

Thank you for your sponsorship of HB 103.

HB 103 will modernize and update the Alaska Optometry Statute. This bill will allow the optometry board the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing.

As a member of the Alaska Board of Optometry, I take my responsibilities to protect and safeguard the citizens of Alaska very seriously.

This bill, along with the Alaska Board of Optometry and oversight from the Attorney General's office, will ensure that no licensee may perform any procedure beyond the scope of the licensee's education, training and experience.

Thank you for your support. I am available by e-mail at akdelzer@gci.net or my personal cell number 907-590-0777, should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Damien R. Delzer, O.D.

Secretary, Alaska Board of Examiners in Optometry

Diplomate, American Board of Optometry

Senior Clinical Examiner, The National Board of Examiners in Optometry

[REDACTED]

From: victoria blower [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 11:13 AM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: HB 103

Dear Representative Spohnholz,

Thank you for recognizing the merits of SB36 and your willingness to sponsor HB 103 in the House. Optometry is a noble profession with extensive education of it's members that has a long track record of safety, sound professional judgment and service to the to the Alaskan citizenry. We, as a profession are the primary eyecare providers of this state, both urban and rural.

It is about time that we are recognized and respected as the well-trained professionals that we are and given the authority to monitor our own profession as our other healthcare colleagues in dentistry, medicine and nursing do.

Victoria Blower, O.D.
Accurate Vision Clinic
Care as Personal as it is Effective
207 E. Northern Lights Blvd
Suite 101
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-272-9800
victoria_blower@hotmail.com

[REDACTED]

From: Ladd Nolin [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 10:07 AM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: Thank you for supporting HB 103

Hello Representative Spohnholz,

I am writing to thank you for your support and introduction of House Bill 103, which would provide the Alaska Board of Optometry the ability to regulate its profession, just like the other prescribing professions in the state. This would allow optometrists to practice to their full scope of education and training, thereby creating better patient care for the state of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Ladd Nolin O.D.

[REDACTED]

From: Jeff Gonnason [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 10:06 AM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: Thank You for HB 103

Representative Ivy Spohnholz,

Thank you for supporting Alaska optometry and sponsoring HB 103. I am the Legislative Chair of the Alaska Optometric Association and look forward to working with you on this legislation. I will be in Juneau next Wednesday February 15.

I was the first Alaska Native doctor of optometry, born and raised in Ketchikan, and licensed in Alaska for 40 years. I have twice served as a member and Chair of the State Optometry Board under two different governors, and Past President of the Alaska Optometric Association. I also spent 22 years representing Alaska for the American Optometric Association, and as a member of the Alaska Health Fair Advisory Board. I also am a director on the board of CIRI in Anchorage.

I currently practice in Anchorage but also performed Bush clinics and volunteered at the Alaska Native Medical Center and Southcentral Foundation in my younger days. I will be presenting more detailed testimony at committee hearings.

Best regards,
Jeff

Háw'aa
JEFF GONNASON, OD

Office 907-276-2080
Cell 907-350-9000

[REDACTED]

From: Natalie Macke [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 9:53 AM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Support for HB 103

Dear Representatives:

Please support House Bill 103 for the following reasons:

- 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 treat the majority of eye patients all over the state including remote areas
- The Alaska optometry law needs to be updated and the optometry board deserves the same respect as other boards of medicine
- Optometrists should be able to practice at the full scope of their education to include 8 years of college with many who have 1-2 additional years of residency training

Thank you for considering supporting this bill.

Best Regards,

Natalie Macke
Doctor of Optometry

[REDACTED]

From: Ladd Nolin [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 9:51 AM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

I am writing to express support for House Bill 103. 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.

[REDACTED]

From: Dr. Marilyn Holm [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 9:11 AM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Dear Representative Spohnholz,

I am writing to request that you support House Bill 103 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

[REDACTED]

From: John Shank [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 8:30 AM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Please support HB 103

Dear Representative,
Please support HB 103 and bring Optometry into the 21st century. This bill is long over due.
Thank you for your time and service.
John T Shank

[REDACTED]

From: Elizabeth Hunt [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 7:49 AM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Please support Optometry House Bill 103

Dear Representatives,

I wanted to touch base with you about House Bill 103. Some would have you believe that House Bill 103 would authorize an Optometrist to do surgery, and that the moment HB 103 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).

House Bill 103 has nothing to do with granting privileges of surgery. **House bill 103 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 House bill 103 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 HB 103 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

[REDACTED]

From: Benjamin Crawford [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 6:57 AM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Chris Birch; Rep. Gary Knopp; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: Please support optometry HB 103

Dear Representatives,

Please support HB 103. 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 HB 103.

The key point to the bill is to allow the State Board of Optometry to have the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing. This will allow the Board to make changes to regulations without having to go through the laborious legislative process. Any changes would reflect changes that are occurring in our profession and will remain within our scope of practice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Benjamin Crawford, O.D.

Accurate Vision Clinic

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3401 Minnesota Dr., Suite 200



NORTHEASTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY

Representative Ivy Spohnholz
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801
March 18, 2017

RE: HB 103

Dear Representative Spohnholz,

As a comprehensive ophthalmologist in practice in rural America for over two decades, I have been asked by the respected members of the Alaska Optometric Association to respond to a series of misleading statements that have recently been directed to members of the Alaska State Legislature and circulated through the local media. Unlike most of the individuals making claims with regards to education in our nation's colleges of optometry, I am a graduate of both one of our nation's premier programs in clinical optometry, The Oklahoma College of Optometry at Northeastern State University, as well as the Oklahoma State University Health Science Center's College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, one of the top-ranked medical programs when it comes to rural medicine and primary care.

I followed this by completing a residency in ophthalmology and ophthalmic surgery at OSU-Tulsa. I have also been a professor, surgeon, and clinical faculty member at the Oklahoma College of Optometry for almost 18 years. Having trained in both optometry and ophthalmology, my perspective is formed from direct observation and daily experience, not from ostensible measures of speculation grounded in a politically crafted agenda of turf protection or self-serving ideology.

As an ophthalmologist, I am embarrassed that some of my colleagues are again resorting to deride the profession of optometry. These innuendos are part of a decades-old campaign which fails time and time again to recognize the expansion and maturation of the entirety of the optometric profession, with respect to the growth of the optometric, medical, and scientific knowledge base, evolved patterns of evidence-based care, and technological innovation. Optometry is a learned profession with over 150 years of humanitarian service to the American public. Optometry is an independent healthcare profession which has matured and evolved alongside the other health professions.

These types of unprofessional "scare tactics" are completely inappropriate and demonstrates a lack of respect for the members of the Alaska Legislature. Mockingly throwing professional dispersions your way, as if Alaska legislators are not sophisticated enough to understand the high standards and rigorous educational processes, state and national board examinations and certifications that young and aspiring students, 2/3 of which are women, must go through to become licensed doctors of optometry. These misstatements take the form of "optometrists didn't go to medical school", or "optometrists receive no hands-on training". Individuals making such statements are, respectfully, naïve and highly misinformed.

Oklahoma College of Optometry

1001 N. Grand Ave. | Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74464 | P 918.444.4000 | F 918.458.2104

www.nsuok.edu

With respect to my fellow ophthalmologists who think they know what modern optometric education is all about (without ever having stepped foot in an optometry school), I offer the following evidence-based facts. Following college where the majority of applicants to optometry school have completed a four-year baccalaureate degree, future optometrists complete a comprehensive and robust 4-year professional program which, like medical school, includes didactic instruction in the basic and clinical sciences. As a matter of fact, in several optometry programs across the nation optometry students sit side by side with medical students in the same classroom or with the same professor at Universities that offer both doctorates in optometry and medicine.

Similar to an ophthalmology residency, the professional optometry program includes years of supervised clinical practice. After graduation, many optometrists take on an additional 1 or 2 years of post-graduate work. Northeastern State University, for example, offers both 1 and 2-year post-graduate residencies with areas of focus that include advanced disease management. I know of many optometric physicians that have also completed fellowship programs beyond residency in intense areas of focus such as glaucoma, cornea, and retina; fellowships offered under specialized ophthalmologists.

I've been asked to comment on how optometrists learn new procedures or pick up new skills that were not available during their time in optometry school. The simple answer is the same way every other physician, dentist, advanced practice nurse, or other healthcare provider or professional does. By attending continuing education programs, workshops, and a lot of due diligence and independent study.

Optometry is an independent health care profession. Optometry is a noble profession that treats and attends to the visual and healthcare needs of the vast majority of Alaskans. After more than a century and a half of service, it has earned the right to chart its course, look to its future, and to remain accountable to society. Optometry adheres to the same high moral and ethical standards that the other learned-health professions do. Optometry has always sought to keep the welfare of the patient above all else.

And yet, no other independent doctoral-level health profession has been subjected to such a high degree of obstructionism and attempted derailment by another independent profession as has optometry. Neither dentistry nor podiatry has had to endure the same amount of seemingly endless dispirited commentary. Fortunately, the forthcoming decision is in the hands of the objective and clear-minded representatives of all the citizens of Alaska. And it is in their sole interest that decisions that seek to advance the public welfare are best served.

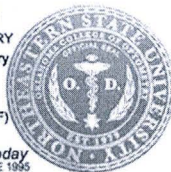
Respectfully,



Richard E. Castillo, OD, DO

Richard E. Castillo, OD, DO
OPHTHALMOLOGY & PROCEDURAL OPTOMETRY
Director, The Center for Advanced Practice Optometry
Assistant Dean/Surgical Training & Education
NSU | The Oklahoma College of Optometry
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castillo@nsuok.edu

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Tally Teal

From: Damien Delzer <delzer@eyeclinicfbks.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 10:39 AM
To: Rep. Sam Kito
Subject: Support HB 103 version J.5

Dear Representative Kito,

Thank you for your patience with the extensive testimony regarding HB 103.

Please support HB 103 Version J.5 as written by the bill's sponsor.

The other three amendments, although probably meant with good intentions, are actually an attempt to obstruct and derail this legislation and actually will impose new restrictions on current practices.

The optometric profession as well as the State Board of Optometry maintain the highest moral and ethical standards, always putting patient welfare above all else.

The regulatory process will always ensure that public welfare will be served and provide ample opportunity for opponents to voice concerns should any arise.

Sincerely,

Damien

Damien R. Delzer, O.D.

Secretary, Alaska Board of Examiners in Optometry

Diplomate, American Board of Optometry

Senior Clinical Examiner, National Board of Examiners in Optometry

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 1:30 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: House Bill 103

From: Nathan Frank [mailto:nathanfrank81@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 1:17 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Cc: AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com
Subject: House 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

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 1:07 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support Optometry HB 103

From: Adam Huff [mailto:doctorhuff@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 12:44 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

Sincerely,

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

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 10:57 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: HB103

From: Michael Dwyer [mailto:bigdaddydwyer@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 10:05 PM

To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB103

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

Thank you,

Michael Dwyer

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 10:57 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Request for support of HB103

From: Kara Frank [mailto:karafrank88@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 9:49 PM
To: Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>
Subject: Request for support of HB103

Good evening,

I am writing to respectfully request your support for HB103. My husband and I own a practice in Palmer. This bill is important in order to provide better access to eye care and lower costs for our patients.

I am happy to answer any questions that you might have. Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

Best regards,
Kara Reynolds, OD and 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

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 10:57 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Support HB 103

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

From: Katy [mailto:katyrice4@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2017 10:47 AM
Cc: AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com
Subject: Support HB 103

Dear Representative,

Please support House Bill 103!

Currently, we are using laws to regulate optometry that have been added in and patched together year after year by legislators who have come and gone. We all deserve to have consistency with updated and clear regulations to support our current standard of care. We also need to be proactive, and consider that technology has drastically improved in the past decade, and will continue to do so. Our standard of care changed faster in the past decade than it did in the previous quarter century. If we continue to use outdated laws outlining what optometrist can or can not do, we will soon only be able to legally practice at a level that is below standard of care. There are many things that optometrists are expected to do every day, saving both vision and sometimes life, that only 20 years ago would have been considered outrageous. Providing authority to the optometry board will not drastically change the way we practice today or in the next year, but will allow us to regulate ourselves so that when training, technology, and standard of care advance, we will be proactive in regulating our profession.

The Alaska optometry law needs to be updated and the optometry board deserves the same respect as the other prescribing boards in this state. Please support HB 103 to enhance patient care through better access, earlier intervention and cost savings.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Rice, O.D.
Kenai Vision Center
Kenai, AK

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 10:29 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support HB 103

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

From: Denise Thanepohn [mailto:dlthanepohn@gci.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 9:54 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Cc: AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com
Subject: Please Support HB 103

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute providing better access to eyecare and lower costs.

Thank you very much.
Dr. Denise Thanepohn
Alaska Eye Care

Tally Teal

From: Rep. Sam Kito
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 10:25 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please support Optometry HB 103!

From: FORREST MESSERSCHMIDT [mailto:docfor@gci.net]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:36 AM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please support Optometry HB 103!

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

Thank you

**Forrest Messerschmidt, OD
Juneau**

Tally Teal

From: Rep. Sam Kito
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 3:29 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support Optometry HB 103

From: Dwyer, Claudia K (DOT) [mailto:claudia.dwyer@alaska.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 11:06 AM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration of HB 103.

Claudia Dwyer
18145 Meadow Creek Drive
Eagle River, AK 99577

Tally Teal

From: Rep. Sam Kito
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 10:09 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support HB 103

From: Jessica Giesey [mailto:jlgiesey@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 8:08 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Cc: Elizabeth Stevens <AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com>
Subject: Please Support HB 103

Dear Representatives,

I am an optometrist practicing in Anchorage and I am writing in support of HB 103. Optometrists play a vital role in delivering eye care to patients all over the state. I believe that myself and my Alaskan colleagues have worked earnestly to deliver the best care possible to the people of Alaska and have thereby earned the trust of the communities we serve. We should have the ability to regulate our own board just as many other health professions in the state do like medicine, nursing, and dentistry and we should be able to practice the full scope of our training and education. Thank you for your time and consideration of HB 103 and have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,

Jessica Giesey, O.D.

Tally Teal

From: Rep. Sam Kito
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 10:05 AM
To: Tally Teal
Subject: FW: Please support HB 103

From: James Taylor [mailto:james.taylor@tananachiefs.org]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 8:36 AM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Cc: alaskaoptometricassociation@gmail.com
Subject: Please support HB 103

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute. Ultimately, this will improve access to and reduce cost of care.

Tally Teal

From: Rep. Sam Kito
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 10:04 AM
To: Tally Teal
Subject: FW: Support HB 103

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

From: Jill Matheson [mailto:vision@alaska.net]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 9:38 AM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Cc: akoa@alaska.com
Subject: Support HB 103

Hello Legislators!

I write to you to ask for your support for HB 103.

This bill is NOT about doctors of optometry wanting to do surgery, or even expanding privileges .

It is only allows the Optometry Board to regulate Optometrists.

By removing restrictions and education requirements from the statute, it allows the Board to keep optometrists up to date with current technology for many years to come via the regulatory process (which requires plenty of public comment and oversight from the Dept of Law).

As a former chair of the Optometry Board, I understand that the regulatory process prevents the Board from passing any regulation that allows a doctor of optometry to perform any procedure that they are not qualified or trained to do. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding HB 103.

Dr. Jill

Jill Geering Matheson, OD

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

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 1:21 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support Optometry HB 103

From: Jeff Gonnason [mailto:drjeffg@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 12:43 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

March 22, 2017

Alaska State House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature

RE: Please Support HOUSE BILL 103

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 will have a support letter from Katherine Gottlieb of SCF and other rural clinics in your packet. I practice in Anchorage and performed Bush clinics 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 new 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 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.

• **Optometry education and training is identical to the dentistry model with 8-10 years of university level education and residency:**

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 no issues of harm. And the Optometry Board will continue the 4 day supply restriction on narcotics as required in Section 4.

• **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” under federal 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 been 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 do. 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 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 legislators in their turf battle. Risk of harm to the public has never been an issue.

• **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 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.

• **In reality, optometry and many of the ophthalmology specialists currently work very well together:**
Both daily collaborate care and co-manage patients all over Alaska with a teamwork approach.

Please support **HB 103** for better access to eye care in Alaska and lower costs.

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

Háw'aa

JEFF GONNASON, OD

Office 907-276-2080

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 1:12 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support Optometry HB 103

From: Damien Delzer [mailto:akdelzer@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 1:03 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for your support of HB 103.

This long overdue update to Alaska Optometry Statute will provide better access to eye care and lower costs.

Sincerely,

Damien R. Delzer, O.D.

**Secretary, Alaska Board of Examiners in Optometry
Senior Examiner, National Board of Examiners in Optometry
Course Reviewer, Council on Optometric Practitioner Education**

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 8:53 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please support HB 103

From: Steven Dobson [mailto:stevendobsonod@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:03 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Cc: Elizabeth Stevens <Alaskaoptometricassociation@gmail.com>
Subject: Please support HB 103

Dear Representatives

My name is Steve Dobson, I have been in private practice in Anchorage since 1982, past president of the Alaska Optometric Association, past president of the Alaska Board of Examiners in Optometry and I respectfully request your support of HB103.

House Bill 103 House Bill **does not** authorize optometrists to do any procedures, it only gives the state board the authority to regulate the profession for the **safety** and **welfare** of the public.

The state board would **never** authorize optometrists to do anything beyond their scope of education and training and this is **clearly** stated in House Bill 103.

Alaskans throughout our vast state deserve **access** to quality optometric eye care as advancements continue in optometric knowledge, training and technology.

During **EVERY** legislative effort over the past 40 years, organized ophthalmology has claimed "terrible harm by optometrists" yet history proves this has **NEVER** been true.

Alaskans throughout our vast state deserve **access** to quality optometric eye care as advancements continue in optometric knowledge, training and technology.

Once again , thank you for time, service to our communities and your support of HB 103.

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

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 8:53 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support Optometry HB 103

From: John Demske [mailto: johndemske@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 11:28 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Cc: AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Hello Representatives,

I'm sending this email to inform you that I fully support HB 103 which gives autonomy to the Alaska Board of Optometry. I would appreciate your support of this bill.

Thank you for your time.

John Demske, O.D.

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 5:14 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support Optometry HB 103

From: Ashley Kettler [mailto:ashkett@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 5:10 PM

To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>

Cc: Elizabeth Stevens <AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com>

Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

Thank you,

Ashley Kettler, O.D.

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 4:18 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support Optometry HB 103

From: Dr. Marilyn Holm [mailto:drmholm@AgapePEC.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:48 PM
To: Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

Dr. Marilyn Holm, OD

Agape Peninsula Eye Care, LLC

Office: (907)262-2200

Fax: (907)262-2244

Email: drmholm@AgapePEC.com

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:23 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: HB103

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

From: Andrew Peter O.D. [mailto:homereyecare@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:58 PM
To: Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB103

Sam,

Soon, you will hear details on HB 103. 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...with no sign of slowing up. These changes in medicine include imaging, medicine, and pathology diagnosis. For example, optometrists uses retinal laser imaging that -only a few years ago- was available only in academic institutions. Radiofrequency technology is chosen for lesion removal near eyes and lids. Injectable medications are commonly used for treatment of inflammation and diabetes. Lasers are used for treatment of secondary cataracts and preventative treatment of glaucoma. This makes a difference; it provides convenience to patients, allows access to quality of care in rural areas, and reduces costs. A win-win. Some of these techniques are being performed in Alaska...some are currently only allowed in other rural states.

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 providers to be nimble with emerging technologies.

Populations are getting older. Costs are expanding. We must be prepared to provide appropriate care, in a timely manner, at reasonable cost.

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

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:23 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support Optometry HB 103

From: Dr. Laura Kompkoff [mailto:drk@katmaieye.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:02 AM

To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs. Thank you for your time.

Laura Kompkoff, O.D.

Katmai Eye and Vision Center

Katmaieye.com

907-334-3937

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:23 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please support optometry HB 103

Constituent

From: sarah bixby-dubois [mailto:sarahbixbydubois@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:07 AM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Cc: AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com
Subject: Please support optometry HB 103

Please support HB 103.

This bill updates the Alaska Optometry statutes, making it similar to the dental and nurse practitioner statutes, whereas the board can determine the regulatory details of the practice of optometry. It is frustrating and time consuming that our profession does not have the ability or authority to regulate its practice in the same manner as other prescribing health professions such as dentistry and nursing. Please support HB 103.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bixby-DuBois

--
Sarah Bixby-DuBois | Optometrist | Alaska Vision Center, Inc. | 800 Glacier Ave Ste. B, Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: 907.586.9864 | Fax: 907.463.2679 | akvision@alaska.net or sarahbixbydubois@gmail.com |

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:49 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Support HB103

From: Dr. Sheryl Lentfer [mailto:dr.slentfer@katmaieye.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:28 AM

To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support HB103

Please support HB103. As a practicing Optometrist for 20 years in Anchorage, we are asking to be able to run our own board. Our education includes a 4 year doctorate program (after an undergraduate college degree and National entrance examination) and, governed and approved continuing education. The Dentists have successfully brought the best and most up to date oral health to Alaskans by successfully governing their own practitioners. They do not have to go through the state legislative body to provide patients the best of care as healthcare advances. Optometrists provide healthcare all over the state and in a timely manner. Alaska has always strived for the most up to date healthcare for its residence, and in today's world, advances are learned about and expected from healthcare providers at a quicker rate than ever. Like the doctors of Dentistry, Doctors of Optometry want to provide the best care for our patients, and that includes the safest and up-to-date care in which we are trained. Thank you for your support!

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

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:42 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please support Opt HB 103

From: campaign@frontiereyecare.org [mailto:campaign@frontiereyecare.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:59 AM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please support Opt HB 103

Greetings.

As you plan for the next year's legislation and budget, I hope you take the time to approve HB 103. It allows eye care as a medical association to have jurisdiction of themselves, just like medical doctors, nurses and dentists have with their associations. With this approval, it'll streamline eye care for Alaska. Currently, any change to the regulations must go through state legislature; this distracts your focus on auxiliary tasks and increases costs towards healthcare. Please allow optometry the capacity to lead themselves, like many other associations can and like in many other states. Thank you.

Patrick Campaign, OD
Business Manager
Frontier Eye Care, LLC
P: 907-306-3182
F: 855-760-9968

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:41 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support Optometry HB 103

From: Andrea Eberle [mailto:eberleeyecare@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 11:27 AM

To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Elizabeth Stevens <alaskaoptometricassociation@gmail.com>

Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Dear Representatives,

Please support Optometry HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrea Eberle

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:39 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please support HB 103

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

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 12:36 PM

To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please support HB 103

Dear House Members,

Please support HB 103 which will update the Optometry Statute and make it commensurate with the other prescribing professions of Dentistry, Medicine and Advanced Nurse Practitioner's. It will expedite access of care and decrease costs to Alaskans.

Thank you,

Victoria Blower, O.D.
Accurate Vision Clinic
Care as Personal as it is Effective
207 E. Northern Lights Blvd
Suite 101
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-272-9800
victoria_blower@hotmail.com

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:31 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support Optometry HB 103

From: OPTICAL INC CHUGACH EYE CLINIC & [mailto:chugach@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:14 PM
To: Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>
Cc: AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute.

Sincerely,
Hal E. Hagge OD

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:55 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

From: Elizabeth Hunt [mailto:ehunt@lifetime-eyecare.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 8:49 AM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

Thanks!

Elizabeth Hunt, OD

Doctor practicing in Juneau, Alaska

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:54 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support Optometry HB 103

From: Benjamin Crawford [mailto:drcrawford@accuratevisionclinic.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 7:51 AM

To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Dear Representatives,

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute which would provide better access to eye care and at lower costs.

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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Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:54 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support Optometry HB 103

From: Dr. Elizabeth Lane [mailto:drlane@makareyecare.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 8:09 AM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:53 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support Optometry HB 103

From: Jeremy Fulk [mailto:jcfulk@outlook.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 8:27 AM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Dear Representative,

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

Jeremy C. Fulk O.D.

Eye Clinic of Fairbanks

116 Minnie St., Fairbanks, AK 99701

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:53 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Support Optometry HB 103

From: Erik Christianson [mailto:erik@kpunet.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 8:29 AM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Cc: alaskaoptometricassociation@gmail.com
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

HB 103 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 HB 103 feel free to contact me

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

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:52 AM
To: Tally Teal
Subject: FW: Please Support HB 103 to update Optometry statues and provide lower cost to health care

From: Joshua Cook [mailto:dr.cook@alaskaeyecare.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:50 AM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com
Subject: Please Support HB 103 to update Optometry statues and provide lower cost to health care

I would like to extend my support for HB 103.

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. This bill simply allows us the same respect as other boards in our state and will enhance the care of our patients and lower the cost of their eyecare.

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:48 AM
To: Tally Teal
Subject: FW: Please Support Optometry HB 103

From: Jeffrey Mattson [mailto:Jeffrey.Mattson@pci.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:09 AM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zach Fansler <Rep.Zach.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>
Cc: 'AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com' <AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com>
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Hello Representative,

My name is Jeffrey Mattson. I am an optometrist who practices in Anchorage, AK and I am asking your support of House Bill 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

Once again, thank you for your support of House Bill 103.

Jeffrey Mattson, O.D.

Tally Teal

From: Rep. Sam Kito
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 10:25 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: HB 103

From: victoria blower [mailto:victoria_blower@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 5:50 PM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 103

Dear Members of HSS and Labor and Commerce Committees,

I encourage you to consider the merits of HB 103 and vote for it's passage.

Optometry is a noble healthcare profession with extensive specialized training in the health, performance and treatment of ocular conditions. Doctors of Optometry have 8 or more years of education. The profession has a long track record of safety, sound professional judgment and service to the Alaskan citizenry. Optometrists are the primary eyecare providers within our state, both in urban and rural settings.

The optometry board should have the authority and respect to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing. Let's update the Alaska optometry law.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Victoria Blower, O.D.
Accurate Vision Clinic
Care as Personal as it is Effective
207 E. Northern Lights Blvd
Suite 101
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-272-9800
victoria_blower@hotmail.com

Tally Teal

From: Rep. Sam Kito
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 2:31 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please support HB 103

From: Damien Delzer [mailto:akdelzer@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 12:43 PM
To: Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please support HB 103

Dear Chairperson Kito,

I am requesting your support of HB 103.

HB 103 will modernize and update the Alaska Optometry Statute. This bill will allow the optometry board the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing.

As a member of the Alaska Board of Optometry, I take my responsibilities to protect and safeguard the citizens of Alaska very seriously.

This bill, along with the Alaska Board of Optometry and oversight from the Attorney General's office, will ensure that no licensee may perform any procedure beyond the scope of the licensee's education, training and experience.

Thank you for your support. I am available by e-mail at akdelzer@gci.net or my personal cell number [907-590-0777](tel:907-590-0777), should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Damien R. Delzer, O.D.

Secretary, Alaska Board of Examiners in Optometry

Diplomate, American Board of Optometry

Senior Clinical Examiner, The National Board of Examiners in Optometry

For the record, my name is Jeff Gonnason, OD, I was the first Alaska Native optometrist and I am the Legislative Chair of the Alaska Optometric Association.

I have served on the state optometry board under 2 different governors, and I have been testifying on this issue for over 40 years in Alaska.

Every one of the ophthalmologists & medical organizations that have testified on this issue for the past 40 years only have 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 and I will address both:

First: Danger:

Public safety has NEVER been an issue over 40 years of expanding scope of practice. There has never been a case before the board that I know of in 40 years involving harm from any optometrist's treatment or drug prescription, and that is a wonderful record for Alaska.

Dr Limstrom commented on our current statute of a 4 day supply limit on narcotics. This 4 day restriction will be kept in REGULATION by the board - as described in Sec 4 & 5 of this bill. Optometry strongly agrees with the new push to limit narcotics by all providers. Optometry in Alaska has a 10 year history of safe prescribing of narcotics with no issues.

Optometrists first began using eye drop drugs in the USA in 1972, but it took Alaska 16 more years to become the 50th and last legislature to approve this in 1988, because of the same arguments of "danger to the public" and "poor training". I could not give a child with pinkeye in Yakutat any eye drops, but the Health Aide with a few weeks of training could. Alaskans suffer and pay more when educated providers cannot utilize their skills.

Second: Education:

Optometry's education model is identical to dentistry. 8-10 years of university education. First a bachelors degree, followed by a 4 year doctoral program, with the first 2 years of sciences and final 2 years of clinical experience and passing National & State Boards. Now many also take a 1-2 years additional residency in a specialized area. How optometry and

dentistry are similar but 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 concerns 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, hypertension or brain tumors, when to make appropriate referrals, and focuses on treating eye diseases and appropriate use of medications for the eyes.

For example, I work daily with medical doctor diabetes specialists - they send the patients to me to examine and report on any complications in their eyes from diabetes, and many local family doctors refer to optometry for various treatments.

The most important part of any health care provider's education is PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT. All health providers make decisions every day that affect our patient's well being. I can assure you that the Alaska Optometry Board is more than capable of objectively regulating our profession to adequately protect the public.

As far as current procedures and future technology, there is always a **STANDARD of CARE** that accompanies any treatment, and optometry, medicine, dentistry, and nursing must all meet the same standard of care in anything they do. Optometrists are defined as "physicians" by Medicare.

My final comment on the scare tactic of "surgery". Optometrists do very little of what ophthalmologists do, and none of the advanced specialty surgeries that the sub-specialists you heard from do. We only do very minor procedures we are fully competent to do. Surgery cannot be well-defined in statute, because technically anything touching human tissue is surgery. Clipping fingernails, tattooing eyelids, piercing metal through ears and noses or whatever - is all surgery. If you try to define it in statute, you end up with huge lists of everything someone can or cannot do - that is the main problem of other state's optometry laws, and they keep having to return to the legislature for any changes, and are always opposed by organized medicine. Look at the history of opposition to Alaska's Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, who provide a magnificent service to Alaskans and help control rising costs.

Practice limitations should be done in REGULATION by the respective board, as is the specific requirement of Section 5 of this bill.

Please note the support letters from SouthCentral Foundation and other Native health organizations, and Dr Castillo's letter.

Optometrists in Alaska provide the majority of eye care at lower costs, savings on travel and time, and know when to treat and when to refer using professional judgment.

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

From: [Nicole Berhow](#)
To: [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Sam Kito](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Rep. Chris Tuck](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. David Eastman](#); [Rep. Jennifer Johnston](#); [Rep. Zach Fansler](#); [Rep. Matt Claman](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Rep. Chris Birch](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Jason Grenn](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#); [Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard](#); [Rep. Gary Knopp](#); [Rep. Chuck Kopp](#); [Rep. Charisse Millett](#); [Rep. Justin Parish](#); [Rep. DeLena Johnson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. George Rauscher](#); [Rep. David Talerico](#); [Rep. Dean Westlake](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Lora Reinbold](#)
Cc: AlaskaOptometricAssociation@gmail.com
Subject: Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 2:17:31 PM

Hello Representatives,

I am an Optometrist practicing in Anchorage since 1997 and a constituent of District 18. Please support Optometry House Bill 103. 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.

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute, providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

Thank you for your support,

Nicole L Berhow, OD

From: Gary Kjome
To: [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#); [Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Sam Kito](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#); [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Rep. Chris Tuck](#); [Rep. Daniel Ortiz](#); [Rep. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [Rep. Paul Seaton](#); [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Rep. Lance Pruitt](#); [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Neal Foster](#); [Rep. David Eastman](#); [Rep. Jennifer Johnston](#); [Rep. Zach Fansler](#); [Rep. Matt Claman](#); [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Rep. Chris Birch](#); [Rep. David Guttenberg](#); [Rep. Jason Grenn](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#); [Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard](#); [Rep. Gary Knopp](#); [Rep. Chuck Kopp](#); [Rep. Charisse Millett](#); [Rep. Justin Parish](#); [Rep. DeLena Johnson](#); [Rep. Dan Saddler](#); [Rep. George Rauscher](#); [Rep. David Talerico](#); [Rep. Dean Westlake](#); [Rep. Steve Thompson](#); [Rep. Adam Wool](#); [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Lora Reinbold](#)
Cc: [Elizabeth Stevens](#)
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 7:49:17 PM

Dear Representatives:

I'm asking for your support for House Bill 103 which will allow the optometry board the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing.

House Bill 103 does not authorize optometrist to do any procedures beyond their scope of education and training.

Please support HB 103 to update the Alaska Optometry Statute providing better access to eye care and lower costs.

Sincerely,

Gary Kjome, O.D.
Dimond Vision Clinic
Anchorage, AK

Angela Stephl

From: Michael VonAh
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 4:13 PM
To: Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard
Subject: HB 103

I support HB 103. Thanks

Angela Stephl

From: David Karpik
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:52 PM
To: Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard
Subject: Please support HB 103, patient access to optometry

Representative Sullivan-Leonard,

I am writing to ask for your support of HB 103. 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 interest of the patient in mind. The 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.

As a past president of the Alaska Optometric Association and a current board member of the Great Western Council of Optometry, I see the tremendous advances in technology and treatment that are underway. Old statutes should not get in the way of cutting edge care and best patient outcomes.

As the medical director of Alaska Vision Source, which represents 17 private practice offices covering from the Aleutians to Fairbanks and south to Ketchikan, I see safe, conservative, and team oriented optometrists providing care for eyes and helping patients understand the systemic conditions that affect their eyes. I see good communication without hesitancy to refer and co-manage patients with the primary care provider or sub-specialist when it will enhance patient outcome or understanding. I also see training provided to optometrists at great expense of time and monies by state universities and VA hospitals that can not be utilized due to current state laws.

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

Respectfully,
David Karpik, OD
Kenai Vision Center

Angela Stephi

From: Denise Thanepohn
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:45 PM
To: Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jennifer Johnston; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Chris Birch
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

I am asking that you lend your support to HB 103, allowing the optometry board to regulate the practice of optometry, the same as the MD's, nurses and dentists. This would allow consistency of the professional boards.

Optometrists provide most of the eye care in the State of Alaska and we would appreciate your help with this bill.

Thank you very much. I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Denise Thanepohn
Alaska Eye Care

Angela Stephl

From: Jill Matheson
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2017 9:55 AM
To: Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard
Subject: Support HB 103

Dear Rep. Sullivan-Leonard,

I am a former Board member and HB 103 will go a long way to ensuring optometrists continue to provide the comprehensive eye care that Alaskans need.

Also, I am in Juneau and can be available to meet with you if you have any further questions regarding the bill.

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

Angela Stephl

From: katy rice
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 1:19 PM
To: Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard
Subject: Please Support HB 103

Dear Representative Sullivan-Leonard,

Optometry is its own profession, just as dentistry is its own profession. Optometrists should have the authority to regulate their profession, just as dentists do.

Currently, we are using laws to regulate optometry that have been added in and patched together year after year by legislators who have come and gone. We all deserve to have consistency with updated and clear regulations to support our current standard of care. We also need to be proactive, and consider that technology has drastically changed in the past decade, and will continue to change. Our standard of care changed faster in the past decade than it did in the previous quarter century. If we continue to use outdated laws outlining what optometrist can or can not do, we will soon only be able to legally practice at a level that is below standard of care. There are many things that optometrists do now every day, saving both vision and sometimes life, that only 20 years ago would have been considered outrageous. Providing authority to the optometry board will not drastically change the way we practice today or in the next year, but will allow us to regulate ourselves so that when training, technology, and standard of care advance, we will be proactive in regulating our profession.

The Alaska optometry law needs to be updated and the optometry board deserves the same respect as the other prescribing boards in this state. Please support HB 103 to enhance patient care through better access, earlier intervention and cost savings.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Rice, O.D.
Kenai Vision Center
Kenai, AK

Angela Stephl

From: Andrea Eberle
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 9:25 PM
To: Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Dear Representative Sullivan-Leonard,

Please support House Bill 103. The Alaska optometry board should have the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing. This will allow Optometrists to be able to practice at the full scope of our education.

Thank you so much for your support of this important legislation for my professional career.

Sincerely,
Dr. Andrea Eberle

Angela Stephl

From: Rob Fleckenstein
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:11 AM
To: Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard
Subject: HB 103

Hello, my name is Rob Fleckenstein, O.D., and I am a practicing Optometrist in Eagle River. I'm asking for your support of HB 103 for the following reasons:

- 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 treats the majority of eye patients all over Alaska including remote areas.
- The optometry board deserves the same respect as the other boards.
- The Alaska optometry law needs to be updated.
- Optometrists should be able to practice at the full scope of our education.
- Doctors of Optometry have 8 or more years of college and optional 1-2 years residency.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rob

ROBERT J. FLECKENSTEIN, O.D.

Robert J. Fleckenstein
Eagle River Vision Clinic

16331 Heritage Pl. #104

EAGLE RIVER, AK, 99577

T: 907-694-2511

F: 907-694-3900

www.ervc.com

Angela Stephi

From: Lynn
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 1:10 PM
To: Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard; Jeff Gonnason
Subject: Please Support House Bill 103

Dear Representative Sullivan-Leonard,

Thank you for your service to the State of Alaska and congratulations on your election victory! I hope you are able to make Alaska fiscally sound by reducing spending and finding alternative funding sources for the State other than income taxes. I love this State and truly want the people of Alaska to enjoy their residency with an affordable life style.

In the mid - 80's, your brothers, Dan and Harvey, worked with me as lobbyists to update the scope of practice of optometrists. Since then, optometrists in Alaska have even further expanded the scope of practice by several legislative efforts. During the current legislative session, SB 36 and HB 103 have been introduced to again address this issue. Current Alaska optometric statues and regulations are antiquated in terms of the scope of education and training of today's optometrist. The optometry board is the proper seat of authority to regulate the practice of optometry, the same as the other prescribing health care professions of medicine, dentistry, and nursing. The board should determine the full scope of optometric practice as defined by our training and education. This legislation will remove the legislative action currently necessary for optometric practice expansion.

Please support HB 103 when it appears in the House.

If I can be of further help, please contact me.

Respectfully,

Lynn

Lynn J. Coon, OD, FAAO
Valley Eye Associates, P.C.
935 E. Westpoint Dr. Suite 207
Wasilla, AK 99654
Office: 907-373-0225
Fax: 907-373-7776

Angela Stephl

From: Dr. Marilyn Holm
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2017 9:14 AM
To: Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard
Subject: Please Support Optometry HB 103

Dear Representative Sullivan-Leonard,

I am writing to request that you support House Bill 103 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

OLIVER M. KORSHIN, M. D.
DISEASES AND SURGERY OF THE EYE

1200 AIRPORT HEIGHTS DRIVE, SUITE 310
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508
(907) 276-8838, OUTSIDE ANCHORAGE TOLL-FREE 800-777-8838
FAX (907) 258-0735

March 16, 2017

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz, Chair
Health and Social Services Committee
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: HB 103

Dear Rep. Spohnholz:

My name is Oliver Korshin. I'm a graduate of Harvard Medical School and a board certified ophthalmologist. I have practiced in Anchorage as a general ophthalmologist since 1982. For several years I served as Chief of Ophthalmology at the Alaska Native Medical Center, where I worked closely with optometrists, not only here in Anchorage, but also in Barrow, Sitka, Dillingham, Bethel, Nome and Kotzebue.

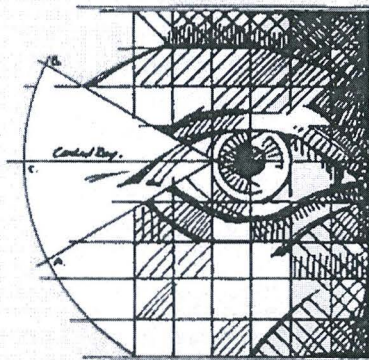
Without the Native Health Service's optometrists, we could not have provided such a high level of eye care to Alaska Natives, despite major impediments of distance, weather and transportation. Optometrists were (and remain) essential partners in the success of the Native Health Service's eye care program; optometry is a profession I admire and respect.

Fast forward to 2017: at 74 years old, I no longer perform eye surgery and no longer take emergency call. Thus, I hardly have a personal dog in the forthcoming fight over HB 103, which would allow the Alaska State Board of Optometry, with no surgical training or experience of its members, to define which invasive ophthalmologic diagnostic and surgical procedures its licensees may engage in.

I'm writing to you because I am double-boarded in Preventive Medicine, and my secondary specialty prompts me to do whatever I can to prevent the enactment of HB 103 into law in order to avert what may lead to a public health calamity.

A century ago, a similar controversy existed between M.D.'s and osteopaths (D. O.'s). Like optometrists today, D. O.'s petitioned state legislatures throughout the country to expand their scope of medical and surgical practice, while M. D.'s testified before the same legislatures, urging them not to do so, claiming that the public could be harmed. Schools of osteopathy responded by adding to their curricula the same undergraduate and postgraduate educational and training requirements as for M. D.'s, so that D.O.'s and M.D.'s have long since been considered equals by D.O./M.D. state licensing boards.

But optometry and ophthalmology remain two profoundly different professions, despite the fact that they both deal with visual disorders. The undergraduate and postgraduate educational requirements of each profession remain vastly different,



Rep. Ivy Spohnholz, March 16, 2017, p. 2

while the similarity of their names continues to sow public confusion, on which some practitioners capitalize, as to the education, training and capabilities of each.

As a legislator, you cannot afford to be confused on this important public safety issue.

HB 103, a briefly-worded bill, which seems so very innocent and innocuous on the face of it, would open the door for optometrists to perform complex, advanced and potentially harmful diagnostic and invasive procedures without the years of medical education, training and experience possessed by M. D. ophthalmologists.

On a different public safety note: my secondary specialty also prompts me to address the issue of controlled substances. The current Alaska optometry statute restricts the prescription of controlled substances to those containing hydrocodone and for a period not to exceed four days. HB 103 places no such restrictions on the prescription of controlled substances, meaning that optometrists could prescribe any and all controlled substances for any number of days. Allowing optometrists to prescribe controlled substances without any limitation whatever is inadvisable from a public health standpoint.

First, controlled substances are infrequently prescribed for ocular disorders, as eye pain does not respond well to them: every ophthalmologist knows this. I cannot recall the last time I prescribed a controlled substance for one of my patients, but it must have been at least 15 years ago.

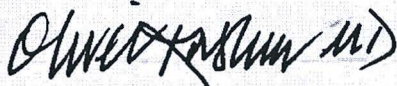
Second, we are in the midst of an official, state-wide public health disaster (Gov. Walker's words) — a deadly epidemic of the abuse of prescribed and illegal opioids. Adding a whole new class of opioid prescribers such as optometrists, who lack even basic general medical training, can hardly help address this disaster, except negatively.

It's hardly necessary to repeat the detailed arguments against such a potentially deleterious bill: it's likely that you've already heard them all and will no doubt hear them again, so I will not impose much longer on your time other than to say that the human eye is only about an inch in diameter, weighs only 7.5 grams (¼ oz.), and contains many highly specialized tissues and cells that produce what is commonly called "vision."

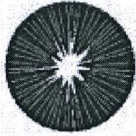
In short, the human eye is the most delicate, complex and essential sense organ of all. The privilege to invade such a tiny, advanced structure with scalpel, needle or laser is not something to be granted to practitioners who lack extensive medical and surgical training, regardless of their training, skills and experience in optometry.

HB 103 is the most expansive optometric scope of practice bill on the legislative table in the United States. Enacting it into law will sooner or later compromise patient safety. Please oppose it.

Sincerely,



Oliver Korshin, M. D.



AMERICAN ACADEMY™
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

20 F Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001 -6701
202 -737- 6662

*Alaska Society of
Eye Physicians and Surgeons*

3500 Latouche St. #250
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
907-563-5882

March 16, 2017

The Honorable Ivy Spohnholz
Chairperson, Health & Social Services Committee
Alaska House of Representatives, State Capitol Room 106
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Chairperson Spohnholz:

We are writing today on behalf of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the world's largest association of eye physicians and surgeons, serving more than 32,000 members worldwide, to ask for your opposition to HB 103.

HB 103 would permit optometrists, non-medical doctors who have neither completed medical school nor surgical residency, to perform scalpel and laser surgery on and around the eye. HB 103 also gives unfettered authority to the Alaska Board of Examiners in Optometry to authorize optometrists to perform dozens of surgical procedures—all of which are invasive—on the eye and surrounding tissues using scalpels, lasers, needles, ultrasound and other means. We strongly feel that this legislation compromises the safety and surgical care of Alaska's eye patients by removing the current standards of medical education and clinical training required to perform eye surgery.

There are no shortcuts in learning to safely perform surgery. An ophthalmologist trains for four years in medical school, performs a one-year hospital internship and trains for three additional years in a surgical residency program before he/she can treat on their own. This training provides not only technical skills, but just as important, it instills the judgment to determine when and when not to operate. Moreover, an ophthalmologist's clinical training prepares them how to manage potentially fatal surgical complications that may arise.

The fact that that optometrists—non-physicians—would be able to perform all the eye surgeries authorized in this bill without ever having completed medical school and residency is alarming, and puts Alaska's eye patients at severe risk. Also, as alarming is the fact that the Alaska Board of Examiners in Optometry would decide whether an optometrist's education, training and experience is sufficient to protect eye surgery patients in Alaska. Unfortunately, unlike the Alaska State Board of Medicine, the Board of Examiners in Optometry has no experience in determining qualifications to safely perform surgery.

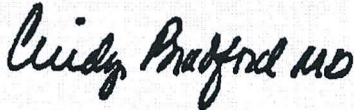
HB 103 would also remove existing safeguards placed upon the practice of optometry by the state legislature pertaining to the prescription and administration of pharmaceuticals. For

example, HB 103 would authorize optometrists to inject medications into the small and delicate structures of the eye. Additionally, the legislation would also authorize optometrists to inject Botox for therapeutic purposes and also to alter or enhance cosmetic appearance. Anytime a needle is placed in or near the eye, there are serious risks to patients that require adequate clinical experience and judgment.

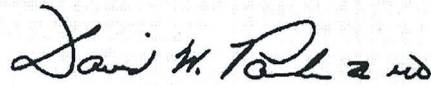
In 2014, the Alaska State Legislature passed legislation to continue to allow optometrists to prescribe controlled substances containing hydrocodone. During consideration of this prescription authority, the legislature continued the four-day prescription limitation to protect patients. HB 103 would not only remove hydrocodone and other controlled substances prescription time limitation, the optometric bill would also expand the controlled substances that optometrists would be authorized to prescribe to include all Schedule Ia and IIa controlled substances which are very powerful and highly addictive substances.

Last year, SB 55—a bill very similar to HB 103—failed in the legislature. We respectfully ask that you once again uphold these high standards for patient safety and quality surgical care by voting “no” on HB 103. Thank you for your strong consideration on this matter.

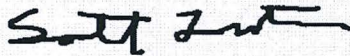
Sincerely



Cynthia A. Bradford, MD
President
American Academy of Ophthalmology



David W. Parke II, MD
CEO
American Academy of Ophthalmology



Scott A. Linstrom, MD
President
Alaska Society of
Eye Physicians and Surgeons

CC: Members of the House Health & Social Services Committee

[REDACTED]

From: Carl Rosen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 8:21 AM
To: Bernice Nisbett; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: HB 103

To the Alaska House Health and Social Services Committee, Chair Rep Spohnholz:

I strongly oppose HB 103 for the following reasons:

1. To be clear this is about giving a group of folks that have not attended medical school the privilege of performing surgery on trusting patients. Further, the bill would give the board of optometry complete jurisdiction as to what procedures are within the optometric scope of practice. How can a group of non-surgeons make these decisions? It is an understatement to say this is dangerous for patient safety.
2. Let's say optometrists get these privileges without medical school, internship, and surgical residency training that typically take eight years, what then? Would a couple of weekend courses suffice? And let's say this is OK with the legislature, would 1 or 2 cases a year keep an optometrist proficient enough? I think not.
3. Another important detail, how would optometry obtain hospital privileges or take call since surgical procedures, regardless of how skilled the surgeon will invariably result in a complication, particularly if enough procedures are done. What then? Providence, Alaska Regional, Matsu, Fairbanks Memorial, or Bartlett hospitals would have to alter their medical by-laws. The optometry board would then have to confront hospital medical staff oversight, something they are conspicuously trying to avoid.
4. What legal issues regarding malpractice insurance are required. A hospital transfer agreement needs to be in place if the patient has any cardiovascular, respiratory, or allergic complications during an ophthalmic procedure. I have not heard or seen any details regarding these important topics.
5. Dental aides are brought up. They work solely on tribal lands. Two years of procedures are required and if you lose a tooth or two if doesn't have the same impact as losing an eye.
6. Insurance payments for CPT codes related to eye procedures will need to be discussed and BC/BS or Aetna will be very reluctant to pay for optometry attempting to bill for procedures that is not routine and customary.
7. Don't you have a sense of deja vu? It seems every few years optometry finds a legislator willing to champion their cause. And here we are again. Truth be told, optometry schools are not teaching surgical or injection procedures because there aren't enough people on the outside willing to have an optometry student practice on them. It should be noted the American Academy of Ophthalmology feels SB36 is the most expansive scope bill in the United States.
8. Ophthalmology is a dedicated and important member of the medical community. We are feeling alienated and marginalized. It is stunning that after 24 years of service, free emergency trauma and ophthalmology call to the State, that when I attempt to meet with a legislator I am dismissed and told this is about a turf battle. I worked very hard to get here and the training is difficult for a reason.

9. Ask yourself would I allow my family to have a surgical procedure or a needle injection around or in my eye by an optometrist?. If you feel this bill is sound then vote yes, otherwise do the right thing and vote no, the only sensible solution.

For the record, I am an ophthalmologist with subspecialty fellowship training in Neuro-ophthalmology and Oculoplastics. The only such specialty ever to practice in Alaska. I have been at Ophthalmic Associates in Anchorage for almost 24 years. I am a past president of the Alaska State Medical Association. I have taken emergency night trauma call as a community service without pay for almost 24 years. Although a specialist I care for Alaskans with simple as well as complex problems. I started my education at Amherst College, then Harvard and Boston University School of Medicine. My wife graduated from Wasilla High School and my kids attend schools in Anchorage.

Sincerely,
Carl Rosen, MD
President
Ophthalmic Associates
542 West Second Avenue
Cell: 952-1700



March 15, 2017

Alaska House Health and Social Services Committee
Representative Ivy Spohnholz, *Chair*
Representative Bryce Edgmon, *Vice Chair*

RE: Oppose S.B.36/H.B.103, An Act Relating to the Practice of Optometry

As plastic surgeons serving patients in Alaska, we urge you to oppose S.B.36/H.B.103, which seeks to expand optometric scope of practice. Patient safety requires that only licensed physicians with the appropriate education and training perform surgery in the ocular region.

S.B.36/H.B.103 will allow optometrists – who are not physicians – to perform surgical procedures that fall squarely within the practice of medicine. Alarming, S.B.36/H.B.103 grants the Alaska Board of Examiners in Optometry authority over this expanded scope of practice, including determining which surgeries optometrists may perform. Optometrists have no education or training in surgical procedures. S.B.36/H.B.103 thus threatens patient safety and diminishes the standard of surgical care in Alaska.

S.B.36/H.B.103 also expands the pharmaceutical formulary optometrists may employ, with no prerequisite education in their safe use. Will optometrists recognize adverse reactions to these drugs? Will they be qualified to treat life-threatening complications? Optometrists receive nowhere near the medical education and training of ophthalmologists or plastic surgeons, and are therefore less capable to identify, understand and effectively treat conditions that cause eye disease.

Ophthalmologists and plastic surgeons complete 7-10 years of medical and surgical education and training, with increased clinical responsibility and decision-making authority. Optometric education is only 4-5 years, with significantly less clinical exposure and responsibility. Sadly, in 2009, the notable gap in optometric training became apparent when optometrists at a VA facility provided patients with substandard treatment for glaucoma. As a result, 22 patients suffered from progressive vision loss.

We believe S.B.36/H.B.103 will diminish the high quality of care Alaska's citizens deserve, and urge you to oppose S.B.36/H.B.103. Please contact Patrick Hermes, ASPS's Senior Manager of Advocacy and Government Affairs, with any questions at Phermes@plasticsurgery.org or (847) 228-3331.

Sincerely,
Debra Johnson, MD
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons

Susan Dean, MD
Palmer, AK

William Wennen, MD
Fairbanks, AK

Alaska State Medical Association

4107 Laurel Street • Anchorage, Alaska 99508 • (907) 562-0304 • (907) 561-2063 (fax)

March 13, 2017

Honorable Ivy Spohnholz, Chair
House Health and Social Services Committee
Alaska State House
State Capitol Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: House Bill 103

Dear Co-Chair MacKinnon:

The Alaska State Medical Association (ASMA) represents physicians statewide and is primarily concerned with the health of all Alaskans.

ASMA opposes House Bill 103 which is just the latest attempt to expand the scope of practice for optometrists beyond their professional training, lower standards of care and put patient's health at risk.

Although the bill appears to be short, the expansion to the scope of practice is monumental.

All licensing boards have specific statutory grants of authority and specific restrictions that provide a balance between having elected officials create policy and protect the public's interest and the need to allow limited decision-making by individuals in specific occupation to implement those policies. The focus being on implementing licensing requirements and disciplining licensed members who violated the statutory policies created by elected members of the legislature. Boards were never seen as policy entities with discretion to define their own scope of practice.

House Bill 103 attempts to adopt a new standard granting virtually all policy decisions to the Optometry Board in two critical areas, prescription drugs and surgery. If the legislature adopts this new approach many pages could be removed from Alaska's Statutes by merely replacing authorities and restrictions with a single grant of authority saying "the board may adopt regulations necessary to govern...". This concept of just trust the Board to make the right decision threatens to empower businesses with almost unfettered power to make critical policy decisions in which they have a vested interest. While we do not intend to impugn anyone's character we should all acknowledge it is human nature to have natural biases in matters that benefit the decision maker. Thus, Boards comprised of licensed members regulate the scope of practice. At least until now, they do not define it.

Proposed legislation broadening the scope of practice for Optometrists has a long and somewhat controversial history in the Alaska Legislature. During the last legislature legislation was proposed to define new authority for Optometrists in the areas of surgery and prescription drugs. The last legislature was not persuaded to pass that legislation and Optometrists scope of practice was not expanded. House Bill 103 takes a new tactic to avoid the policy debate around defining the scope of practice and avoid the process of convincing legislators that the policy behind the proposed expansion in scope of practice is appropriate and instead grants an Executive Branch Board broad authority to adopt policy that past legislatures have rejected.

While the legislative process can be slow, cumbersome and even frustrating the legislature should tread cautiously in avoiding that process by moving legislative policy functions to the executive branch. Especially moving policy decisions to licensed individuals with a vested interest in the outcome.

We have two specific concerns with House Bill 103.

- 1) A broad grant of authority allowing the Board of Optometry to self-regulate the use of prescription and pharmaceutical agents without restriction is unprecedented and grants authority to a Board that without argument provides authority for prescribing prescriptions and pharmaceutical agents beyond the training of Optometrists.

House Bill 103 would remove patient protections regarding prescription and administration of pharmaceuticals. Optometrists are not physicians and do not receive training necessary to perform injections into the globe of the eye. Furthermore, this legislation could ultimately allow optometrists to inject Botox for either cosmetic or therapeutic purposes. Optometrists simply are not trained to perform such procedures.

With regard to prescriptions House Bill 103 would allow the Board to grant authority to non-physician optometrists to prescribe any controlled substances, including opioids. In 2014, after much deliberation the Alaska Legislature allowed the limited and temporary prescription of substances containing hydrocodone to be prescribed by optometrists. Even this small expansion drew great deliberation and concern. Allowing controlled substances to be prescribed by individuals without appropriate training jeopardizes the health of Alaska patients. Any expansion in scope of practice for prescription drugs or pharmaceutical agents should be expressly defined in statute.

- 2) A broad grant of authority allowing the Board of Optometry to self-regulate what ophthalmic surgeries and what "noninvasive" procedures can be performed is unprecedented and without argument provides the Board authority to allow surgeries and procedures beyond the training of Optometrists.

ASMA has great concern over the expansion of practice to include invasive surgery.

Not only do optometry schools not currently provide the education and training to perform surgery safely that is comparable to ophthalmology residency programs but even if they started optometrists who have already graduated have not acquired that education and training. The surgeries included in past efforts and admittedly are the goal include dozens of surgeries with lasers, scalpels, needles, ultrasound and other techniques. None of these surgeries are "superficial" or "not invasive."

Quite simply, expanding the scope of practice for optometrists to include laser surgeries is inappropriate given optometrists' level of training and providing a broad grant of authority to the Board to allow such an expansion is inappropriate.

If Optometrists believe an expansion of scope of practice is warranted the legislature needs to make the policy decision to do so after hearing testimony, weighing patient safety and a thorough debate. Any such expansion should be defined to allow the Board to understand the limits of the authority and allow it to implement the policy.

ASMA requests that House Bill 103 not move from your committee.

Sincerely,



Dr. Graham Glass, President
Alaska State Medical Association

cc: House Health and Social Services Committee Members



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02/27/2017

**Alaskan House Health & Social Services Committee, Juneau, AK
Committee Chair Representative Ivy Spohnholz**

I would like to enhance the understanding and implications of House Bill 103 (HB103) and demonstrate why this does not represent a valid option for Alaska's optometrists and ophthalmologists. In general, both professions get along just fine in this state and nationally. We work together routinely. However, desires by a few optometrists to legislate with HB103 and establish complete surgical and pharmaceutical autonomy for the Alaskan Board of Examiners in Optometry is unprecedented. It is off the charts.

47 States in the Union do not allow optometrists to even perform any type of 'surgery', let alone determine what procedures are allowable. Not a single state has an Optometric Board that can make a boast of autonomy over what surgical procedures it can or cannot do, if any.

Please note that HB103 is indeed a radical departure from the norm and that no other states have enacted such a broad statute. The Sponsor Statement of SB36 states that "this bill is updated to reflect current and modern-day practice". What it proposes is clearly not current and modern-day practice by any definition. What is being proposed is nothing short of a sea-change. It is a change in the very definition of what constitutes a physician and surgeon, which is the realm of the State Medical Board. The Alaska State Medical Board opposes SB36. Alaska does not need to be a medical care experiment.

According to the AMA Journal of Ethics (December 2010, Volume 12, Number 12: 941-945): "While some suggest that the trend is toward an expanded scope of optometric practice, history suggests that [Oklahoma] is an outlier. Most states—including those that have entertained proposals by optometrists to expand their scope of practice—have chosen not to allow optometry's practice to expand into surgery and other areas of medicine." Oklahoma has been the procedural testing bed in optometry for years.

Optometrists outnumber ophthalmologists by a ratio of four to one. Nationwide, about 30 percent of consumers don't know the difference between the two types of eye doctors and assumed that optometrists had medical degrees, according to a survey conducted by the National Consumers League in 2005. When the differences were identified, ninety-five percent of the 600 Americans surveyed wanted an M.D. wielding the scalpel or the laser if they needed eye surgery. Alaskans should not have to ask their prospective surgeon "Say doc, did you go to medical school?" This is not serving the public interest well. Please maintain Alaska's surgical integrity as does the rest of the United States.

Optometrists require a four year degree, the same as many paramedical professions including chiropractic. SB36 is equivalent to chiropractors trying to legislate an ability to do orthopedic surgery. *The difference educationally and surgically between a chiropractor and an orthopedic surgeon is the same difference that exists between an optometrist and an ophthalmologist.* The suggestion is not that these are not competent doctors of their profession. The statement is simply that they have no training



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process or precedent for surgery. They have no medical license. It is irresponsible for a non-surgical body to direct any approach to surgical care or to self-determine what procedures they can do. The very fact that they are requesting this should give everyone pause to consider the level of judgement involved. *It is alarming and it keeps coming around.* This type of legislation has failed every year and should fail again!

A more logical approach would be to *develop and incorporate surgical training during their tenure in optometry school.* Then, demonstrating as allopathic and osteopathic MD's do through surgical training, review and Board Certification, that they are capable of surgical patient care. There is also an established process for becoming a surgeon, be it orthopedics, cardio-thoracic, plastics, ENT, general, neurosurgery or ophthalmology. If the goal is to become an eye surgeon, then I might suggest going to medical school as a start, not optometry school. *Legislation is not the appropriate answer or forum for this, especially without demonstration of competence or training in place.*

This leads to the ongoing drama you and we must be subjected to every year or two. If surgical privileges, injections and expanded prescriptive authority is desired by the Alaskan Board of Optometric Examiners, then they should spend their energy developing surgical education and training rather than bullying our legislature for unwarranted 'approval' of tasks unfamiliar.

If this is unrealistic or unattainable, then an agreeable list of procedures approved by the Alaskan Board of Optometric Examiners and the Alaska State Medical Board might be a better solution. To my knowledge no attempt at this has ever been considered. The Alaska State Medical Board is there for a reason and it would be better to work with them than to try and circumnavigate around them.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Alaska Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons are against SB36. The American Medical Association has taken opposition to these expansion bills in the past and present. The Alaska State Medical Board itself is very much against HB103 or any paramedical establishment trying to legislate privileges unmerited. Without substantive demonstration of a surgical curriculum or training, I doubt very much that their positions will change.

Finally, HB103 would lead to more non-physicians seeking the right to practice medicine and they're going to turn to legislation to do that: exactly what the legislators do not want. This would lead to an ongoing process of harmful curtailment of medical and surgical integrity in the name of appeasement. The few lines of proposals in HB103 seem innocent enough, at first glance. Look again closely and you will see that the integrity of medical and surgical care in Alaska is at risk.

Please oppose HB103! (SB36)

Thank you.

Eric W. Coulter, M.D.

JOHN B. DEKEYSER, M.D., P.C.
Obstetrics & Gynecology

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Fax (907) 339-9720

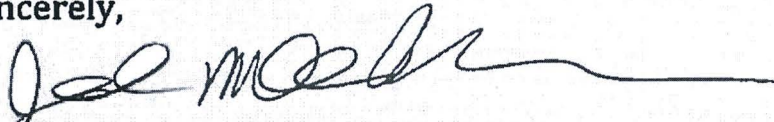
February 26, 2017

Dear Representative Ivy Sponholz,

I have become aware of SB 36 advocating for prescriptive authority and surgical privileges for optometrists. I would encourage you to oppose this bill. Optometrists do not receive this training in their graduate school. And, it is not something that can be taught over a weekend in a hotel conference room. Please vote against this bill.

I am board certified in OB/GYN and moved to Anchorage in 1984.

Sincerely,

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

John DeKeyser, MD

Tally Teal

From: Cer Scott <cerharleyscott@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 4:47 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: HB 103

Attention:
Representative Sam Kito & Committee Members HL&C Committee -

Please keep the public safe by not allowing HB103 to become law that opens the doors of potential damage to the gift of sight all people are blessed with. Vote 'No' on HB103.
Thank you!

Cer Scott
4352 Taku Blvd
Juneau, AK 99801
(405) 534-0822

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 1:23 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: HB 103 Labor and Commerce Hearing today, 3/27/17

From: Griffith Steiner, MD [mailto:gsteiner@akeyedoc.com]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 6:08 PM
To: Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 103 Labor and Commerce Hearing today, 3/27/17

House Labor and Commerce Chair Mr. Kito, Vice Chair Mr. Wool and committee members,

Though I was disappointed to spend 2 hours on the phone without being able to speak, I understand the time constraints and appreciate the time and attention that you are all giving to HB 103. I have a more detailed testimony, but must address some comments made during the hearing.

Ironically, Steve Dobson OD (optometrist-Anchorage) aggressively accused ophthalmologists of being misleading. I have respect for Dr. Dobson as an optometrist, but disagree with him dramatically on this issue. He stated categorically, "This bill has nothing to do with surgery and the ophthalmologists are misleading over and over that is about surgery." He then went on to say, "This bill is only about autonomy, not surgery." That could not be more misleading as the entire point of autonomy is to let them decide what they can do, including surgery. He said he would never do complicated surgeries like retina and cataract surgery. **He did not exclude laser surgery** (very different from laser diagnostics, which optometrists can already use).

Jill Geering Matheson, OD (optometrist-Juneau) also spoke and she **specifically** mentioned laser surgery when asked what could conceivably be approved by the board with this new autonomy.

Optometrists can already do everything appropriate with their level of training.

Optometrists already have a board that manages their specialty.

On the Alaska Dept. of Commerce website the optometry board already "adopts regulations to carry out laws governing the practice of optometry in Alaska. It makes final licensing decisions and takes disciplinary actions against people who violate laws."

The optometrists are **very** resistant to a definition of surgery because they want the **autonomy** to include real surgeries. Just Like Kelly Lorenz MD said, "Lasers cut just as much as a blade does." The Washington state definition of surgery is very concise and accurate. It has served that state very well. It still allows the optometrists to do all the procedures they mentioned in the hearings, except laser surgery.

If this bill is truly not about surgery then why won't they accept a very simple and successful definition? If they want to do laser surgery, but not the "complex" surgery, why do they carefully avoid saying this by euphemisms like, "practice to the full extent of our specialty." Laser surgery is not a future, hypothetical thing they may be trained for. It has been around for a long time and they did not spend years learning to do this "minor procedure." Dr. Matheson even had to reluctantly admit that was one of the goals.

Thank you again for your time and efforts.
Please contact me for any questions.

Griff Steiner, MD
Anchorage

Tally Teal

From: rachael bourdukofsky <rachaelann76@live.com>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 7:33 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: "No" on HB103

Pease vote "no" on HB103. This legislation can cost more than money and

If passed it will provide an opportunity of the Optometry profession to practice the medical profession that only doctors can provide. Supporters of HB103 will tell you that is this legislation does not do that. Then it should be stated in the legislation if that is so. Potential problems can be avoided in more ways than one by not allowing this legislation (HB103) to pass. Thank you for voting no and protecting the public!

Sincerely
Rachael Bourdukofsky

Sent from my iPhone

Tally Teal

From: Karen Hinchman <hinchmankd@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 2:05 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: Attention Sam Kito & Committee Re: HB 103

Vote "No" on HB 103 to prevent the danger of you losing your eyesight to those who only see dollars and their safety to the public. By not passing this legislation you are protecting all people. You will see the potential consequences and the cost will burden the public and the State of Alaska. Gunalcheesh for voting "No" on HB 103

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 9:36 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please oppose SB36/HB103

From: Evan Wolf [mailto:evan@wolfeyecenter.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 6:14 PM

To: Sen. Pete Kelly <Sen.Pete.Kelly@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mike Dunleavy <Sen.Mike.Dunleavy@akleg.gov>; Sen. Shelley Hughes <Senator.Shelley.Hughes@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. Berta Gardner <Sen.Berta.Gardner@akleg.gov>; Sen. Tom Begich <Sen.Tom.Begich@akleg.gov>; Sen. Mia Costello <Sen.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kevin Meyer <Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>; Senator.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep.Johnathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep.Zachary.Fansler@akleg.gov; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please oppose SB36/HB103

Dear legislator,

Please vote "no" on SB36/HB103 .

I am an ophthalmologist in the MatSu Valley, representing about 1/6th of Alaska's eye patients. This bill endangers all Alaskans by effectively de-regulating surgical care and narcotic prescribing in many dangerous ways, as outlined in excellent letters you've already seen from Drs. Limstrom, Zumbro, Swanson, Steiner, Reinhardt, Korshin, Coulter and others, as well as in the testimony of many other respected leaders in the physician (MD) community.

This is not just another turf battle between optometry and ophthalmology. This bill is truly insidious and would be harmful to eye patients by allowing surgery by unqualified non-surgeons. I have spent 15 years in school (after high school) and 15 years in medical/surgical practice dedicated to my patients and the art of surgery, and I cannot idly watch legislation occur which would harm patient care. I have worked with many excellent optometrists, and my two partners are optometrists whom I respect and trust. Nonetheless, the larger optometric community has put this bill forward despite its negative impact on patient care. This is dangerous, motivated by profit, and reprehensible.

Again, I urge you to vote this bill down, so patient safety and quality medical/surgical care can continue in Alaska. Thank you for your hard work in keeping Alaska great.

Sincerely,

Evan Wolf, MD PhD

Wolf Eye Center

Wasilla, AK

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 9:35 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Oppose HB 103/SB 36
Attachments: HB 103 Opposition letter.pdf

From: Eric Coulter [mailto:Eric@AlaskaLasikCenter.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 6:11 PM

To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. Johnathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zachary.Fansler@akleg.gov; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please Oppose HB 103/SB 36

Dear Representatives,

Attached is a letter also available on the website for SB36/HB103 opposition from myself. Please note that I employ optometrists and enjoy many as friends. However...

I testified this weekend along with many other ophthalmologists with our vocal opposition to this bill along with the **Alaska State Medical Board**, the **Alaska State Medical Association**, the **Alaska Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons**, the **American Medical Association** and the **American Academy of Ophthalmology**. It appears that it passed out of committee just the same.

We oppose this because it is open ended and represents the most liberal optometric bill in the United States. It will allow the Optometric Board of Examiners to decide what procedures they will allow their optometrists to do without any definition or restrictions. I was informed by the bill's sponsor that any decisions the Optometric Board would decide would be made public and therefore open to public evaluation. She felt that this would prevent the Optometric Board from "going rogue". I find this a poor safeguard for the citizens of this fine State. The public has no idea whether decisions the Optometric Board makes are good or bad. Studies I sight in my attached letter indicate that 30% of consumers don't even realize that an optometrist does not even have a medical license and never went to medical school. How are they to know and why are we letting a non-medical board decide what medical procedures are OK to perform? It is ludicrous! Why put the risk out there with this bill?

Optometrists currently have an active board that manages their affairs. Nothing in this bill will change that. *This bill is an attempt at unrestricted access to medical procedures that they are not qualified to perform by training, experience or education.* If their intent is non-surgical, then they should state this in their bill and indicate that no surgery will be allowed. They have removed language restricting the use of lasers or blades.

They also want unrestricted ability to prescribe all schedules of medications, including highly addictive compounds that most MD's do not utilize or prescribe. This is a bad idea!

I am unclear why the devil anyone would support this bill. It has nothing to do with Optometrists managing their own affairs and everything to do with expanding their scope of practice to include surgery. They have everything they need currently to utilize the most up to date technology and vision testing and non-surgical treatments. Nothing in this bill will allow optometrists access to anything they cannot do short of surgical procedures already.

Please read between the lines of this bill and you will see what the true motivation is.

If you support this bill what you are saying is: *"I will let the Optometrists decide whether they can perform procedures on the public because I don't want to worry about it. It's OK because they will review with the public before they approve of any new 'procedures' or surgeries. Nothing in this bill prevents them from performing surgery and so I am OK with that because they understand what their limits are and will always abide by their limits. I do not care that I am marginalizing proficient ophthalmic surgeons (Medical Doctors) and I equate them as equally capable of performing ocular surgery even though they have never been trained for this. They are the best ones to decide their own scope of practice. If I am injured, I do not care whether my eyes will be treated by a board certified ophthalmic surgeon or an optometrist; it's the same to me. They should be equal under the law even though they do not have a medical license and are not qualified to have one."*

If you are honestly OK with the above statement then by all means support SB36/HB103. If you are not (as I suspect is the case) then PLEASE oppose this disastrous bill!! It is a blank check!

Eric Coulter, MD

Fellow, American Academy of Ophthalmology

Diplomat, American Board of Ophthalmology

Medical Director, Alaska Lasik and Cataract Center

Medical Director, Alaska Eye Surgery and Laser Center

Eric@alaskalasikcenter.com

907-569-1551

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 8:54 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: eye safety

From: R Kevin Winkle [mailto:kwx4@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:30 PM
To: Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>
Subject: eye safety

Dear Alaska Representatives and Senators,

What car do you drive? Do the manufacturers of automobiles set the safety standards for their vehicles? The answer is unequivocally no. It is the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Should the manufacturers be allowed to set their own standards? House Bill 103 and Senate Bill 36 are bills in which the Optometry Board of our state are seeking to set their own safety standards and wholly control their future scope of practice in Alaska. Currently, you as our legislature, are the independent authority to set the safety standards for the practice of Optometry and whether their scope of practice meets the standard of safety for any advances in medical or surgical interventions-- interventions that carry the risk of vision loss and blindness.

Who sets the standards of safety in the inclusive medical and surgical scope of practice for Ophthalmology-- those of us who spent four years in medical school in order to have the privilege of practicing medicine and four additional years of a specialized residency program to practice the skills of eye medicine and surgery? It is not the Alaska State Ophthalmology Society. The safety standards that we must meet to practice our specialty started with each of our medical schools that had to meet specific accreditation standards. Our residencies had to meet the standards set by the national Residency Review Committee. We had to pass our comprehensive national medical board written and oral examinations and must recertify every ten years. We have to meet the standards of our Alaska State Medical Board and in every institution in which we care for patients we must meet their standards as well with credentialing every two years in which we are reviewed to meet an appropriate standard for the practice of our specialty and for the surgical procedures for which we have requested privileges. We are not alone. Every other medical and surgical specialist in our state has similar requirements to include Podiatrists who fall under the Medical Board and Maxillofacial Surgeons who fall under the Dental Board. Medical specialists who have already completed medical residencies to practice such specialties as pediatrics, family medicine, emergency medicine or internal medicine must still complete a surgical or surgical subspecialty residency if they wish to increase their scope of practice into surgery or to perform certain invasive procedures. Podiatrists must undergo a three year surgical residency in order to extend their practice to surgery of the foot and Dentists must complete at least a four year surgical residency in order to become a Maxillofacial surgeon. These are the safety standards set nationwide. The practice of Optometry is a medical and not surgical specialty and should meet the same safety standards and scope of practice as other healthcare providers.

Optometrists who have completed a four year doctorate program are a valuable part of ocular care for Alaskans and are critical. They are the frontline of healthcare just like our other primary care practitioners and just like all of the rest of us who practice medicine, they should meet the safety standards that have been set for the rest

of us. You must decide who will create that safety standard for Optometry. Fellow Alaskans are safer today due to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and I hope that they will remain at the safest levels in their eye care because of your thoughtfulness. Please vote 'NO' on SB36 and HB103 and consider placing Optometry under our State Medical Board since this is the primary Board regulating the rest of us with doctorate degrees who practice medicine.

Should you have any question concerning this topic I am available via cell phone at 907-350-4394.

Regards,

Kevin Winkle, M.D.
Pediatric Ophthalmology
and Adult Strabismus

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 8:53 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Please Oppose HB103!

From: Griffith Steiner, MD [mailto:gsteiner@akeyedoc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:58 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millet@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. Johnathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Johnathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zachary Fansler <Rep.Zachary.Fansler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please Oppose HB103!

Dear Alaska State Representatives,

This bill must be opposed for the sake of healthcare in Alaska!

There is a natural spectrum to healthcare. This involves all medical personnel, including technicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, chiropractors, optometrists, osteopaths and MD's. All of these professionals, and many others, are critical to providing complete health care. While there is a great deal of overlap, they are not the same professions for very important reasons.

Optometrists are a valued and critical part of that spectrum. But, they are not surgeons.
Chiropractors are a valued and critical part of that spectrum. But, they are not surgeons.

Optometrists know a great deal about eyes. Chiropractors know a great deal about spines. Neither optometrists or chiropractors are trained in surgery!

An optometrist should no more perform eye surgery than a chiropractor should perform spine surgery. Please think about that.

This bill leaves gray areas and loopholes that would allow the optometrists to perform surgery. This bill must be voted down outright, or language must be in the bill that very specifically excludes eye surgery.

The optometric lobby will make this as difficult as possible because, and make no mistake, the primary goal of this bill is to obtain surgical privileges for optometrists. It is a Trojan horse!

In addition, at a time when opioid abuse is epidemic and the national goal is for greatly reduced prescribing of opioids, this bill asks for expanded opioid prescriptive authority for optometrists. This goes directly against all state and national directives, is dangerous and is not necessary.

This is not a benign or necessary bill!

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if you have any questions.

Griff Steiner, MD

Anchorage

4th generation Alaskan and ophthalmologist practicing in Alaska for over 20 years

Tally Teal

From: Crystal Koeneman
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 4:56 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: SB 36/HB 103

From: Carl Rosen [mailto:crosen@finite-tech.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 4:49 PM
To: Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. Johnathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zachary.Fansler@akleg.gov; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 36/HB 103

Dear Alaska State House Members:

I strongly oppose HB 103 for the following reasons:

1. To be clear this is about giving a group of folks that have not attended medical school the privilege of performing surgery on trusting patients. Further, the bill would give the board of optometry complete jurisdiction as to what procedures are within the optometric scope of practice. How can a group of non-surgeons make these decisions? I hear a lot of trust us, we are good guys we know what's best for patients. Really, our society doesn't work that way, rules and regulations keep folks in line. It is an understatement to say this is dangerous for patient safety.
2. Let's say optometrists get these privileges without medical school, internship, and surgical residency training that typically take eight years, what then? Would a couple of weekend courses suffice? And let's say this is OK with the legislature, would 1 or 2 cases a year keep an optometrist proficient enough? I think not.
3. Another important detail, how would optometry obtain hospital privileges or take call since surgical procedures, regardless of how skilled the surgeon will invariably result in a complication, particularly if enough

procedures are done. What then? Providence, Alaska Regional, Matsu, Fairbanks Memorial, or Bartlett hospitals would have to alter their medical by-laws. The optometry board would then have to confront hospital medical staff oversight, something they are conspicuously trying to avoid.

4. What legal issues regarding malpractice insurance are required. A hospital transfer agreement needs to be in place if the patient has any cardiovascular, respiratory, or allergic complications during an ophthalmic procedure. I have not heard or seen any details regarding these important topics.

5. Dental aides are brought up. They work solely on tribal lands. Two years of procedures are required and if you lose a tooth or two it doesn't have the same impact as losing an eye.

6. Insurance payments for CPT codes related to eye procedures will need to be discussed and BC/BS or Aetna will be very reluctant to pay for optometry attempting to bill for procedures that is not routine and customary.

7. Don't you have a sense of déjà vu? It seems every few years optometry finds a legislator willing to champion their cause. And here we are again. Truth be told, optometry schools are not teaching surgical or injection procedures because there aren't enough people on the outside willing to have an optometry student practice on them. It should be noted the American Academy of Ophthalmology feels SB36 is the most expansive scope bill in the United States.

8. Ophthalmology is a dedicated and important member of the medical community. We are feeling alienated and marginalized. It is stunning that after 24 years of service, free emergency trauma and ophthalmology call to the State, that when I attempt to meet with a legislator I am dismissed and told this is about a turf battle and I'm not compromising. I do this because I want to, a dream come true since I was four years old. That's what it means to some of us who are physicians and surgeons.

9. The optometrists would have you believe this is just modernizing housekeeping. The ophthalmologists are just a bunch of whiners. This calls reality into question. So now a weekend course at the Holiday Inn is equivalent to a three year ophthalmology residency. What is this telling WAMI students, high school and college students with aspirations of medical school. If I can't get into medical school, the legislature will make me a doctor. It's hard for a reason, not everyone can win a trophy.

10. I have yet to hear how optometrists are going to meet standards for surgical procedures should this bill pass. Is one injection a year enough, or perhaps two. How about eyelid biopsies? What happens if after I inject in Ketchikan endophthalmitis (eye destroying infection) or a retinal detachment or dangerously high intraocular pressure occurs. Now what do I do. Well, you should never have done the injection in the first place. Details.

11. Ask yourself would I allow my family to have a surgical procedure or a needle injection around or in my eye by an optometrist? If you feel this bill is sound then vote yes, otherwise do the right thing and vote no, the only sensible solution.

Carl Rosen, MD
President, Ophthalmic Associates
542 west Second Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska
Past President, Alaska State Medical Society

*Alaska Society of
Eye Physicians and Surgeons*

To: Alaska Legislature
From: Scott Limstrom, MD, President
Alaska Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
3500 Latouche Street, #250
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Date: 3/29/17

Summary of Optometric Board Certification Requirements:
Oklahoma, Louisiana, Kentucky

In discussions of SB36/HB103, Senators and Representatives have raised policy questions that if either of these bills were enacted, how would optometrists in Alaska be certified to perform surgery. Optometry assured Committee members that the process would be thorough and optometry pointed out the excellent certification process by the three states where optometrists may perform certain surgery procedures. The Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Kentucky regulatory boards are often put forward as examples of this certification process to protect public safety.

However, from a medical perspective, the optometric board surgery standards in these states are not in the best interest of patient safety and quality surgical care. The requirements are a few hours of lecture and minimal if any apprenticeship with a trained surgeon. For these reasons, the medical community continues to have deep concerns about the long-term patient impact of these very weak Oklahoma, Louisiana and Kentucky optometric board surgery standards:

- **Oklahoma:**
 - Course/tests, including a Laser Therapy for the Anterior Segment Course, to qualify to take the Board Exams for optometry.
 - There are no additional certificates or qualifications described in statutes or regulations as prerequisite to performing surgical procedures. Notably, there is no minimum number to treat or oversight to ensure competence.
- **Louisiana:**
 - To perform surgery: proof of completion of a 32-hour course and passing a written test.
 - 4 additional hours of continuing credit hours per year if authorized to diagnose and treat pathology and to use and prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents.
- **Kentucky:**

- Therapeutics: proof of completion of a 32- hour course and passing a written test and an additional 5 hours of continuing credits per year.
- Laser: in addition to therapeutics requirements above, proof of having performed the procedure in the presence of a board approved qualified preceptor and having demonstrated clinical proficiency to the preceptor in the performance of the procedure on a living human eye.

In contrast, what does the Alaska Board of Medicine require to practice ophthalmology?

- Four years accredited medical school, consisting of intensive study of the entire human body and mind
- Step 1, 2, and 3 of general medical boards including in person physical exam
- One year internship, consisting of intensive care, emergency medicine, surgery, internal medicine often in 80-100 hour work weeks and including the performance of thousands of surgical procedures
- Three years of ophthalmology residency, in which residents typically perform thousands of laser and ophthalmic surgeries under close supervision of expert professors in the field
- Optional 1-2 years of surgical fellowship, consisting of intensive education in highly specialized eye surgeries
- This education comprises over 22,000 hours of clinical and surgical education and training
- Completion of American Board of Ophthalmology exam on 10-year renewal cycle
- Mandatory 60 hours of class 1 Continuing Medical Education on a three-year cycle, 3 hours devoted to the safe use of opiate medications
- Annual review and license renewal by the Alaska Medical Board

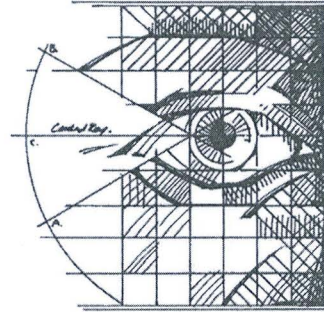
Conclusion

SB36/HB103 would significantly water down the standard of surgical safety for eye patients. SB36/HB103 are not the Alaska standard of medical and surgical care.

OLIVER M. KORSHIN, M. D.
DISEASES AND SURGERY OF THE EYE
1200 AIRPORT HEIGHTS DRIVE, SUITE 310
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

March 23, 2017

Representative Sam Kito, Chair
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol Room 403
Juneau, Alaska 99801



Re: CSHR 103

Dear Representative Kito:

Last week I wrote to each member of the Alaska Legislature stating my opposition to SB 103 [letter attached]. I had earlier sent the same letter to Representative Spohnholz, the bill's sponsor. She replied to my letter by stating that the "latest version" of HR 103, which I presume is CSHR 103, "means that optometrists would still not be allowed to perform these [surgical] procedures," and that HB 103 "does not give optometrists the authority to perform invasive surgeries to the eye"

CSHR 103 as currently drafted does not contain any such restriction re: invasive surgery. Indeed, the word "surgery" no longer appears at all. In its place, the bill defines optometry as follows:

"'Optometry' means the examination, evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, or performance of preventive procedures related to diseases, disorders, or conditions of the human eyes or adjacent and associated structures, consistent with this chapter and regulations adopted by the board."

With no qualification of the word "treatment," this definition is open-ended. Any reasonable person must conclude that "treatment," as used in the absence of qualifying language, includes any and all medical and surgical treatment of the eye or adjacent and associated structures, which includes the eyelids, the bones of the orbit, the brain (the brain sits just a few millimeters directly above and behind the eye), the nose and nasal cavities, and the periorbital sinuses.

Sec. 08.72.278 of CSHR 103 gives the Board of Optometry the authority to establish by regulation what "services" [i.e., examination, evaluation, diagnosis etc.] fall within the scope of the licensee's education, training, and experience. One can only read CSHB 103 as effectively giving carte blanche to optometrists, should the Board so decree, "the authority to perform invasive surgeries of the eye or adjacent and associated structures." We M.D.'s see this disingenuously brief bill to be a Trojan Horse, and the public will likely be ill-served by its enactment into law.

Please vote against CSHR 103.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Oliver Korshin, M.D.

Oliver Korshin, M. D.

attachment

March 16, 2017

State Senate Finance Committee
House Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Re: CSSB 36/CSHB 103

Dear Members of the State Senate Finance Committee and Members of the House Labor & Commerce Committee:

We are grateful for the opportunity to discuss with you our concerns regarding CSSB 36/CSHB 103. We feel the language still opens the door for the Board of Optometry to redefine the scope of practice for optometrists to include surgery. We understand and respect the position of the authors of the substitute language that the intent of CSSB 36/CSHB 103 is not about surgery. We also understand from other proponents of the bill that their intent is not to do surgery, but simply to be governed by their own Board. ***If that is truly the case, then we ask that the supporters of this bill clearly specify that surgery is outside the scope of practice of optometry in order to eliminate future misunderstanding and to avoid patient harm.*** CSSB 36/CSHB 103 ***both remove the restrictions for surgery already in existing law.*** By working out these details now it will spare confusion and uncertainty in the future. By stating that optometry cannot perform surgery, it will not limit their ability to use new technology in the future.

Our concerns are valid. There is now data that proves that optometrists who are performing laser surgery are causing harm to patients in Oklahoma.

Section 1(6): We are grateful for the deletion of the language that states the Board can describe the scope of practice for a licensee to perform ophthalmic surgery. *However, the language is still too broad and would allow the Board to expand scope to include surgery.*

Section 5 (Sec 08.72.278) Limitation on Practice and Section 6 (AS 08.72.300(3): These two sections would allow the Board of Optometry to redefine the scope of practice of optometry. The language specifically redefines optometry to mean "the examination, evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, or performance of preventive procedures related to diseases, disorders, or conditions of the human eyes..." This places no limitations on the ***type*** of "treatment" or "preventive procedures" the Board could deem in the scope of practice. ***Again, if the intent of this bill is not to allow expansion of scope to allow surgery, then it is appropriate to insert language that would specifically forbid surgery.*** By adding a short definition of surgery in this section, ***it would not limit any of the current treatments optometrists are performing and it would not interfere with new diagnostic or treatment modalities that may develop in the future.*** Many states already have definitions of surgery where the Board of Optometry has more broad governing authority as a way to ensure patient safety. ***Without this language, Alaska would be the first state in the country to adopt such broad, unprecedented legislation.***

A suggestion for Section 5 (3): "Optometry" means the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions of the human eyes and visual system, other than by use of laser, x-rays, surgery, or pharmaceutical agents, other than those permitted under AS 08.72.272; "optometry" includes the employment of methods that a person licensed under this chapter is educationally qualified to use, as established by the board. Surgery is defined as any invasive procedure in which human tissue is cut, ablated, or otherwise penetrated by incision, injection, infusion, laser, ultrasound, or other means, in order to: Treat human eye

diseases; alter or correct refractive error; or alter or enhance cosmetic appearance. Nothing in this chapter limits an optometrist's ability to use diagnostic instruments utilizing laser or ultrasound technology. Ophthalmic surgery, as defined in this subsection, does not include removal of superficial ocular foreign bodies, epilation of misaligned eyelashes, the administration of epinephrine by injection for the treatment of anaphylactic shock, placement of punctal or lacrimal plugs, diagnostic dilation and irrigation of the lacrimal system, orthokeratology, prescription and fitting of contact lenses with the purpose of altering refractive error, or other similar procedures within the scope of practice of optometry.**

***Some members may want to avoid a list of procedures an optometrist can and cannot do. The language above simply states that an optometrist cannot do surgery. The second part of the definition makes it clear that the common treatments optometrists already do are not restricted; it does not mean they are limited to those treatment and diagnostic modalities. Any future diagnostic or treatment modality that the Board of Optometry wants to include in their scope, they can decide to use it, assuming it is not surgery.*

There are other current restrictions of the practice of optometry in current law that would be lifted should CSSB 36/CSHB 103 pass, which present a significant public risk. Here are specific concerns we have:

1. Under existing law, ***injections into the globe of the eye*** as well as Botox injections are specifically restricted. CSSB 36/CSHB 103 would lift this restriction. This bill would allow optometrists to inject a needle into the cavity of the eye. This has profound implications for patient safety and should continue to be specifically outlawed.
1. Under existing law, the definition of lasers, surgery and xrays are specifically outlawed. The ***new*** definition of optometry in CSSB 36/CSHB 103 removes those restrictions. ***This means the Board of Optometry can determine new uniform regulations that allow surgery, lasers (which is a form of surgery), and, as mentioned above, Botox injections, and injections into the globe of the eye.***

Section 1(4): Even though this section does not directly expand the prescription authority to include all schedule II narcotics, the language in this section would authorize the Board of Optometry to expand that authority. And it is our belief that the Board of Optometry will indeed expand prescription authority to include all scheduled narcotics. Optometrists already have the ability to prescribe the most common schedule II prescription narcotics (hydrocodone-containing narcotics such as Vicodin) and it is unnecessary to consider expanding prescriptive authority further. It is rare for even an MD to prescribe schedule II narcotics, and even when they do, it is rarely anything other than hydrocodone-containing narcotics.

Suggested revised language of this section could be:

Section 1(4) necessary to govern the practice of optometry, including the prescription and use of pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of eye disease, but shall not include schedule IA, schedule IIA medications, other than hydrocodone-containing narcotics, and schedule V1A*

****The language above would not reduce the prescriptive authority Alaskan optometrists already have, but would still allow the Board of Optometry to determine which medications they can prescribe. To my knowledge there is no state in the nation that would allow the Board of Optometry the right to expand prescription authority to cover all***

scheduled drugs. Not even all MDs have this degree of prescription authority. Most states do not even allow optometrists to prescribe hydrocodone-containing products.

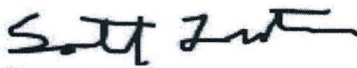
The primary goal of any legislation that involves medical care is patient safety. CSSB 36/CSHB 103 ***removes the surgery restrictions already in existing law*** and allows the Board of Optometry to literally redefine their field into a surgical field. Surgeries performed in Oklahoma has resulted in patient harm. The suggestions above would still allow the Board of Optometry to govern their own professionals, but it would clarify the issue of surgery.

At the very least, given the unprecedented sweeping change in scope of practice compared to existing law, and the profound implications for patient safety this will have, this bill deserves more time and consideration. We are grateful for your due diligence regarding CSSB 36/CSHB 103.

Sincerely,



Rachel Reinhardt, MD
State Affairs Regional Representative.
American Academy of Ophthalmology



Scott Limstrom, MD
President
Alaska Eye Physicians & Surgeons



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02/27/2017

Alaska State House of Representatives, Juneau, AK

Dear Representatives,

I would like to enhance the understanding and implications of House Bill 103 (HB103) and demonstrate why this does not represent a valid option for Alaska's optometrists and ophthalmologists. In general, both professions get along just fine in this state and nationally. We work together routinely. However, desires by a few optometrists to legislate with HB103 and establish complete surgical and pharmaceutical autonomy for the Alaskan Board of Examiners in Optometry is unprecedented. It is off the charts.

47 States in the Union do not allow optometrists to even perform any type of 'surgery', let alone determine what procedures are allowable. Not a single state has an Optometric Board that can make a boast of autonomy over what surgical procedures it can or cannot do, if any.

Please note that HB103 is indeed a radical departure from the norm and that no other states have enacted such a broad statute. The Sponsor Statement of HB103 (SB36) states that "this bill is updated to reflect current and modern-day practice". What it proposes is clearly not current and modern-day practice by any definition. What is being proposed is nothing short of a sea-change. It is a change in the very definition of what constitutes a physician and surgeon, which is the realm of the State Medical Board. The Alaska State Medical Board opposes HB103. Alaska does not need to be a medical care experiment.

According to the AMA Journal of Ethics (December 2010, Volume 12, Number 12: 941-945): "While some suggest that the trend is toward an expanded scope of optometric practice, history suggests that [Oklahoma] is an outlier. Most states—including those that have entertained proposals by optometrists to expand their scope of practice—have chosen not to allow optometry's practice to expand into surgery and other areas of medicine." Oklahoma has been the procedural testing bed in optometry for years.

Optometrists outnumber ophthalmologists by a ratio of four to one. Nationwide, about 30 percent of consumers don't know the difference between the two types of eye doctors and assumed that optometrists had medical degrees, according to a survey conducted by the National Consumers League in 2005. When the differences were identified, ninety-five percent of the 600 Americans surveyed wanted an M.D. wielding the scalpel or the laser if they needed eye surgery. Alaskans should not have to ask their prospective surgeon "Say doc, did you go to medical school?" This is not serving the public interest well. Please maintain Alaska's surgical integrity as does the rest of the United States.

Optometrists require a four year degree, the same as many paramedical professions including chiropractic. HB103 is equivalent to chiropractors trying to legislate an ability to do orthopedic surgery. *The difference educationally and surgically between a chiropractor and an orthopedic surgeon is the same difference that exists between an optometrist and an ophthalmologist.* The suggestion is not that



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these are not competent doctors of their profession. The statement is simply that they have no training process or precedent for surgery. They have no medical license. It is irresponsible for a non-surgical body to direct any approach to surgical care or to self-determine what procedures they can do. The very fact that they are requesting this should give everyone pause to consider the level of judgement involved. *It is alarming and it keeps coming around.* This type of legislation has failed every year and should fail again!

A more logical approach would be to *develop and incorporate surgical training during their tenure in optometry school.* Then, demonstrating as allopathic and osteopathic MD's do through surgical training, review and Board Certification, that they are capable of surgical patient care. There is also an established process for becoming a surgeon, be it orthopedics, cardio-thoracic, plastics, ENT, general, neurosurgery or ophthalmology. If the goal is to become an eye surgeon, then I might suggest going to medical school as a start, not optometry school. *Legislation is not the appropriate answer or forum for this, especially without demonstration of competence or training in place.*

This leads to the ongoing drama you and we must be subjected to every year or two. If surgical privileges, injections and expanded prescriptive authority is desired by the Alaskan Board of Optometric Examiners, then they should spend their energy developing surgical education and training rather than bullying our legislature for unwarranted 'approval' of tasks unfamiliar.

If this is unrealistic or unattainable, then an agreeable list of procedures approved by the Alaskan Board of Optometric Examiners and the Alaska State Medical Board might be a better solution. To my knowledge no attempt at this has ever been considered. The Alaska State Medical Board is there for a reason and it would be better to work with them than to try and circumnavigate around them.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology and the **Alaska Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons** are against HB103. The **American Medical Association** has taken opposition to these expansion bills in the past and present. The **Alaska State Medical Board** itself is very much against HB103 or any paramedical establishment trying to legislate privileges unmerited. Without substantive demonstration of a surgical curriculum or training, I doubt very much that their positions will change.

Finally, HB103 would lead to more non-physicians seeking the right to practice medicine and they're going to turn to legislation to do that: exactly what the legislators do not want. This would lead to an ongoing process of harmful curtailment of medical and surgical integrity in the name of appeasement. The few lines of proposals in HB103 seem innocent enough, at first glance. Look again closely and you will see that the integrity of medical and surgical care in Alaska is at risk.

Please oppose HB103! (SB36)

Thank you.

Eric W. Coulter, M.D.

From: [David Swanson](#)
To: [Rep. Sam Kito](#)
Subject: HB 103
Date: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 2:12:39 PM

Dear Representative,

My name is David Swanson. I have been a retina specialist in Anchorage for 24 years. I have worked with and shared patients with virtually every optometrist and ophthalmologist in the state for a quarter of a century, and have some insight into the role that each group plays in the delivery of eyecare.

Over the last 35 years optometrists in many parts of the country have assumed the role of primary eyecare providers. Especially in Alaska where most ophthalmologists have subspecialty interests, most patients who need glasses or a routine annual exam are seen by optometrists. Probably 90% of routine eyecare is provided by optometrists. As a consequence, optometrists have extensive experience dealing with optical problems and other minor ailments but very limited experience with vision- or life-threatening eye disease. The issue before the legislature is to decide where "primary" stops and "dangerous" begins. It is not difficult: Anything that alters the internal structure of the eye -- needle, laser, scalpel, and some medications -- should be used only by actual physicians vetted by the rigors of a bona fide medical education.

As optometry seeks to achieve parity with ophthalmology through legislative devices, it is fair to ask whether Optometry as a scientific discipline has contributed to the fund of knowledge that applies to our understanding disease and the provision of care to patients. In this respect the optometric profession is embarrassingly deficient. Without exception every scientific, surgical, and therapeutic advance in the diagnosis and treatment of eye disease has come from schools of medicine, not optometry. It is reasonable to say in fact that optometry's 30 year-old effort to expand its scope of practice has depended entirely on the adoption of the discoveries and innovations made by ophthalmology, pharmacology, and medicine in general. A piggybacked profession is ill-suited to choose its own road.

My observation is that Alaska optometrists do very well at what they are trained to do. It is also true that optometric care has improved markedly in the past three decades. However, there is real danger in legislation that encourages it to overstep safe educational boundaries. I strongly urge you to consider carefully the implications of SB 36 and HB 103 now before you. As it is now written, it begs to be defeated.



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

STATE MEDICAL BOARD
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February 24, 2017

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Senator Giessel:

The Alaska State Medical Board has reviewed Senate Bill (SB) 36, which proposes to expand the scope of practice for optometrists to perform eye surgery, injections, and to prescribe controlled substances.

It was noted that the current scope of practice does not include these practices because they are considered the practice of medicine and are only allowed under a physician scope of practice. They expressed concern with permitting non-medical doctors, who have not completed medical school or a surgical residency program, to practice medicine.

The Board opposes this legislation in the interest of public safety, noting that the optometry scope of practice should not include surgery, injections, or expanded prescriptive authority.

The Board respectfully requests that Legislators carefully consider these concerns.

Sincerely,

Grant Roderer, M.D.
Board President
Alaska State Medical Board

E-mail: medicalboard@alaska.gov

Website: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/StateMedicalBoard.aspx>

Current Alaska Statute 08.72.273

Section 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.