

Eye M.D.s & Surgeons

833 SW 11th, Suite 315 Portland, Oregon 97205 (503)222-EYES (3937) FAX: (503)243-6755 oao@oregoneyephysicians.org www.oregoneyephysicians.org

## **February 6, 2012**

**TO:** Representative Mitch Greenlick, Co-Chair

Representative Jim Thompson, Co-Chair

and Members of the House Committee on Health Care

FROM: Nan Heim and Amy Goodall

for the Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology

**RE:** Support for HB 4074

The Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology encourages your support of House Bill 4074.

As eye physicians and surgeons, ophthalmologists treat patients with diabetic retinopathy that can result from diabetes. Unfortunately, diabetic retinopathy has no symptoms a layperson would notice until the damage to the eyes is severe. Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of blindness among working-age Americans.

The Academy supports House Bill 4074 because it encourages wellness programs which strike at obesity, one of the major causes of diabetes.

Thank you.