



**OREGON
ACADEMY OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY**
Eye M.D.s & Surgeons

June 14, 2017

TO: Senator Rod Monroe and Representative Barbara Smith Warner,
Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee
on Education

FROM: Nan Heim, Executive Director
Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology

RE: Support for SB 187

The Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology supports SB 187 to help
provide more vision screenings for Oregon's children.

Our members have worked for many years with both the Oregon Lions
Vision and Hearing Foundation and the Elks Children's Eye Clinic at
OHSU's Casey Eye Institute. Both organizations have done phenomenal
work providing vision screenings to children across the state, both
before and after the passage of HB 3000, the Children's Vision
Screening Act.

Most recently, we have fostered a partnership called See to Read
between the Elks Eye Clinic and the Oregon Library Association. The
Lions have been involved as well. See to Read provides free vision
screenings for children, mostly preschoolers, at public libraries all over
Oregon, usually timed around children's story times. Screeners provide
documentation for schools to show that the children have been
screened as required by HB 3000. When a screening indicates a
potential vision problem for a child, referrals to an ophthalmologist or
optometrist are provided for a comprehensive examination.

Our members urge that funding for SB 187 support vision screenings as
the first step in vision assessment. The technology available today, and
used by both the Lions and Elks, is both cost-effective and incredibly
accurate at identifying potential vision problems.

Thank you for your consideration of this vitally important legislation.

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

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Nan Heim, *Executive Director*