



# OREGON OPTOMETRIC PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION

Chair Salinas, Vice-Chairs Nosse and Hayden, and Members of the Committee, my name is Dr. David McBride and I am an Optometric Physician and small business owner, practicing in Beaverton. On behalf of the 750 members of the Oregon Optometric Physicians Association (OOPA) I am here today in support of SB 129.

Every day Optometric Physicians utilize technology to properly diagnose and treat our patients. Those of you who have had a comprehensive eye exams will be familiar with much of this technology. OOPA members care for Oregonians in every corner of this state and there are always times when it is appropriate or necessary to use technology.

Many people are aware of the differences between eye health and vision care, but not everybody. It is reasonable for a patient to expect that the technology being advertised to them is safe and appropriately regulated. Too often, however, patients are walking in to my office expecting a routine eye exam, but we find some real issues that need to be addressed.

SB 129 will help put into place a few criteria around the use of technology for eye care in Oregon. These criteria are essential to ensuring that suitable care-coordination:

- 1) protects and promotes the doctor-patient relationship,
- 2) meets state and federal licensure laws and regulations,
- 3) and maintains patient choice while protecting patient safety.



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Maintaining a clinical standard of care for patients is critical, in particular with some approaches to Telehealth today. Direct-to-consumer online applications simply cannot replicate an in person visit - opening the door to injury or infection in the case of contact lenses, for example.

SB 129 will help to ensure the patient-doctor relationship remains the keystone in eye care by providing for a mechanism to remind patients that this technology is unable to diagnose eye health conditions. The key is to encourage them not to “skip the doctor,” as some companies advertise, but to in fact get in there as often as prescribed by health care professional.

SB 129 will also ensure that the optometrist on the other end of this technology is accountable to the state of Oregon. Patients will be assured that the person signing off on their prescription is licensed by the Oregon Board of Optometry and practicing within Oregon’s laws and regulations, and not just the laws of the state where this company is head-quartered.

As these laws and regulations have been designed for the safety of the patient, it is important that the Oregon Board of Optometry have the ability to enforce them. The Oregon Optometric Physicians Association supports SB 129 because it seeks to establish definitions, guidelines and regulations in both eye care and vision services in Oregon.