



**OREGON
ACADEMY OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY**
Eye Physicians & Surgeons

**TO: Chair Prusak
Vice Chairs Salinas and Hayden
Members of the House Health Committee**

FR: Sabrina Riggs, Lobbyist
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On behalf of Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology

RE: Support for HB 2508

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The Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology is the professional association of eye physicians and surgeons who specialize in the medical and surgical treatment of eye diseases and other conditions, and also provide vision care services.

COVID-19 changed the landscape of patient care overnight, and our providers quickly adjusted and began providing patient care virtually, where it made sense to. In-person visits will always be a necessary piece of ophthalmic care, but patients and providers are finding that quality care can be delivered via telemedicine. For example, high-quality, pre-surgical visits are conducted via telemedicine daily.

The gains and innovation made in the telehealth arena cannot be maintained without the extension of payment parity to in-person services that is found in HB 2508. This provision ensures that providers and their staff are adequately reimbursed for their time and expertise. As well, we believe that HB 2508 and telehealth increases a patient's access to care, especially specialty care.

We thank the Sponsors of HB 2508 for bringing this important piece of legislation forward, and respectfully urge the House Healthcare Committee to support the bill.