

February 10, 2021

Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs Salinas and Hayden, and members of the House Healthcare Committee,

Thank you for your service as legislators in our great state of Oregon. I would like to submit the following as written testimony to the Oregon House Health Committee regarding HB2541.

As an Oregon Native and long-time practitioner, I am dedicated to the overall well-being of Oregonians, especially in regards to their vision health. As a public health specialist, I not only study the situation in Oregon, but also the contributions of various policy strategies. I've personally worked in rural SE Oregon for the past ten years, as well as in Willamette Valley providing clinical and surgical care. We also provide free eye health screenings at over 60 community sites in conjunction with the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU).

From this background and a deep and abiding commitment for the better health of our state, the strongest of recommendations comes to you to protect our values and sight by preserving the high quality care we have built in our state. Disregarding patient safety measures with the ill-advised alterations to Oregon law as proposed in this bill would be dangerous for your constituents and their sight. The outcome would lead to needless blindness, especially in the elderly who are most at risk and depend on you to apply wisdom and good judgement on their behalf.

Microscopic eye surgery training is in place and developed with great scrutiny and investment over many years. This process is complex and delicate, and the medical training and multi-year mentorship and oversight at accredited universities, such as OHSU's Casey Eye Institute in Portland, are in place under state and national government oversight to carefully develop the thoroughly trained and highly-competent surgeons and medical doctors we deserve to protect our precious ability to see the world around us. There aren't shortcuts around this careful training that work, and those that are taken inevitably compromise our health care system and injure patients.

There are no Oregonians that deserve compromised quality of eye care and surgery and to lose their sight.



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