

February 10, 2021

House Health Care Committee

Oregon House of Representatives

900 Court Street NE, H-489

Salem, OR 97301

Dear House Health Care Committee:

I write you today in support of **HB2541**. This bill updates our scope of care to be in line to what is taught at schools of Optometry across the country. These updates will provide greater timely access to eye care for patients. Currently if I diagnose a condition that requires a laser treatment I must refer to patient to an Ophthalmologist to receive care.

Currently, 85% of primary eye care is provided by a Doctor of Optometry. Without updating the scope of practice for optometrists patients in many Oregon communities must incur the added expense of referrals to specialists whose offices are often significant distances away and/or result in long wait times between office visits.

Currently, five states - Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, and Oklahoma, permit ophthalmic surgical procedures, YAG laser capsulotomy and trabeculoplasty, under their scope of practice acts. Taking this into account and stretching as far back as 1998 in the case of Oklahoma, there have been no malpractice judgments against optometrists related to these procedures or those proposed in HB2541.

I have been providing eye care for 23 years. Technology has advance into areas could only image when I graduated. The need for advanced treatments has increased as the US population ages. Optometrist are well trained to provide timely access to state of art treatments for our patients. As a legislated profession, our ability to manage these conditions appropriately requires occasional modifications to the scope of practice defined in Oregon Revised Statutes. Technology and optometric training have changed to the point that it is now time to update Oregon statutes to reflect these changes.

This bill will allow me to take better and more efficient care of my patients. Please consider this bill as it will allow better access to healthcare to patients across the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Rosiland Hursh OD, FAAO