

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in opposition to HB 2541. Surgical procedures are not without risk and in untrained hands, can be very dangerous. An extensive knowledge of the clinical situations which would warrant such an intervention in addition to the technical skill to perform a procedure are things an experienced ophthalmologist takes years to master. There are rigorous standards for performance of these skills for an ophthalmologist and competency to a high degree must be demonstrated during training. Most importantly, however, the training to be able to manage the complications if and when something doesn't go as planned is also necessary. In medical practice, the full weight of risk and liability would fall solely on the provider performing the procedure including responsibility for all complications and outcomes. I expect the same would then need to apply to an optometrist who plans to perform these procedures without consultation from a trained ophthalmologist and would like to see liability addressed more fully in the legislation before broadening the scope of practice.

Sincerely,
Dr. A Welder