

March 12, 2025

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

RE: Proponent – House Bill 2223

My name is Dr. Jackson Shetlar. I am an optometrist practicing in Salina, Kansas and am in my first year of practice after graduating in May of 2024 from Northeastern State Oklahoma College of Optometry (NSUOCO) in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

I am writing today in full support of House Bill 2223, which modernizes the optometric scope of practice to reflect current education and training being given at optometry schools across the country.

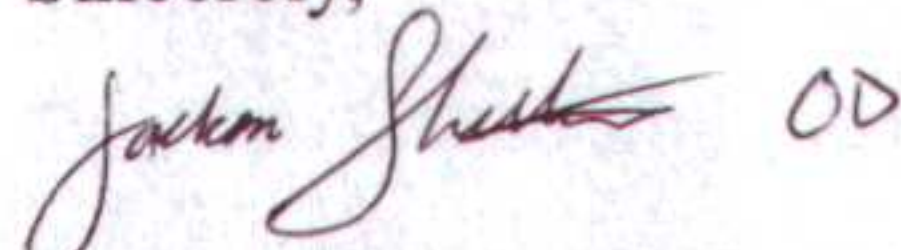
As a student, my training for these procedures began in the first semester of my first year of optometry school and culminated in performing them on patients throughout clinical rotations in my fourth year. During that year, my classmates and I were able to safely perform these procedures on a myriad of patients, as have countless classes of optometry students before me since Oklahoma passed scope modernization in 1988 which was similar to what we are trying to achieve here today. The education that I received in the procedures is world renowned, being used for certification across the United States and internationally.

While I am blessed to be able to work and provide optometric care in my home state and hometown, it is a constant source of frustration to me to have the full scope of my training and ability limited by our current dated scope of practice. A frustration shared by many recent optometry school graduates who choose to remain in Oklahoma, Colorado, Arkansas or other states where they can practice to the full extent of their training.

While Salina is fortunate to have many excellent ophthalmologists in our community who we are able to refer patients to for these procedures, allowing me and my colleagues to practice to the level of our training would provide my patients with a choice of where to receive their care, potentially reducing their wait times and allow the ophthalmologists more time in their busy schedules to provide a more specialized level of care that they are trained to do.

I ask that you pass HB 2223 out of committee favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jackson Shetlar" followed by "OD". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jackson Shetlar, OD

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