

**DRS. HAWKS, BESLER, ROGERS & STOPPEL**



**OPTOMETRISTS**

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March 11, 2025

The Honorable Will Carpenter, Chair  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
300 SW 10th Street  
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Letter in support of House Bill 2223

Dear Chair Carpenter and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing in support of HB2223 to modernize the optometry scope of practice in the State of Kansas.

In 1995, I graduated from Northeastern State University - Oklahoma College of Optometry and became licensed in both Kansas and Oklahoma. Although I have practiced in Kansas for the past 29 years, I have been authorized by the State of Oklahoma to perform the procedures in HB2223 the entire time, and I could provide these procedures there today. It is important to note that as a student I was educated and trained on the procedures that are included in HB2223.

Although the Kansas optometry practice act did not permit the procedures I was authorized to perform in Oklahoma, my strong desire to return home, be close to family, and serve the citizens of Kansas ultimately guided my decision to practice in Kansas.

I returned with the hope and expectation that the Kansas optometry scope of practice would evolve to align with the education and training I received in optometry school—training that has been standard for optometry students for years. And now that many of my peers are recruiting new graduates to join their practice, they are finding that more and more students are basing their decision about where to practice on the extent to which they can practice to the level of their training.

I respectfully assert that the time has come for the State of Kansas to acknowledge the education and training of optometrists and allow them to practice to the full extent of that education and training to best serve their patients. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Rogers, O.D.