



TO: House Health Care Committee

FROM: Dean Barcelow; President

DATE: March 29, 2017

RE: Amendment to S.50; An act relating to insurance coverage for telemedicine services delivered in or outside a health care facility

On behalf of the Vermont Optometric Association, we respectfully requesting the committee amend S.50 to include optometrists:

(O) an Optometrist fully licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 30;

Optometrists in Vermont see, diagnose, treat, and refer patients with complex systemic and ocular disease. The interactions between systemic conditions and ocular conditions often mean that we provide the first line of care to patients. Much like other providers detailed within Senate Bill 50, we provide extensive counseling regarding the patient's overall general health in addition to any ocular conditions.

Please to remember that Optometrists within the State of Vermont provide the majority of our eyecare, provide patients access to the healthcare system, offer timely care, and often in rural settings.

Thank you for your consideration,