

House Committee on Government Operations
Hon. Sarah Copeland-Hanzas, Chair
Vermont State House, Room 49
115 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5301

February 4, 2019

Re: H.104, § 13

Dear Chair Copeland-Hanzas:

My name is James E. Iciek and I am the Executive Director of the National Academy of Opticianry. NAO recently visited Vermont to meet with the Office of Professional Regulation's staff and appointed Optician Advisors about our Career Progression Program, a structured online training program which, paired with field experience, aims to make quality online opticianry training available to aspirants to the field. We are delighted that H.104, § 13 proposes to recognize the Career Progression Program as an additional path to licensure.

Program highlights include acceptance in 10 of the 22 licensing states: New York, Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Massachusetts, Nevada, Georgia, Alaska, and Virginia.

Current Total Enrollment is 2,820, a 63% increase in the last 3 years. The Career Progression Program has been very popular in States that have accepted it recently. In Florida, enrollment has jumped 1,000% (5 enrollments to 55); in Tennessee, 875% (4 enrollments to 39).

Text books are offered both in online format and hard copy format. Tests are offered in online format and booklet format. The program is very affordable--\$900 with digital texts only, \$1,100 with hard-copy texts.

The course allows a student to work at his or her own pace while continuing a full time job. With all books, tests, and forms offered online, the program is extremely accessible.

NAO is proud to be part of making quality opticianry training more accessible and available than ever before. We believe H.104, § 13 will be a distinct benefit to aspiring opticians in Vermont.

Thank you,



James Iciek
Executive Director
National Academy of Opticianry