

Representatives,

I am writing in support of Representative Stone's amendment to the optometry scope expansion bill.

This amendment improves the safety of the original bill by moving oversight to the Board of Medical Practice. This goes a long way to ensuring that there is not a two tier system of medicine in our state.

While many people in our community may not actually know the difference between an optometrist and an ophthalmologist at the very least they can be assured of similar regulations and standards of procedural conduct with this change.

Additionally, increasing the minimum numbers of procedures required for accreditation will only improve skills, also making Vermonters more safe when it comes to these procedures.

What is at issue here is patient safety and access to appropriate care by experienced professionals.

The amendments to the bill improve safety and oversight - something Vermonters deserve and expect.

Please vote in favor of the amendment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kate Lane