

Dear Representatives,

I'm writing to urge you to support the amendment of Representative Stone to S.64.

While allowing optometrists to perform eye surgery is neither necessary nor particularly safe, if this bill must pass then her amendment offers some more reasonable safeguards.

Any medical or surgical intervention requires a full understanding of the physiological and anatomic makeup of an entire person, not of just a single organ. All parts of the body are interconnected in some way, and an understanding of this is best provided by the extensive education and training entailed in the years of medical school and residency which ophthalmologists undergo. A legislative change cannot make up for the significant discrepancy between the abilities of these two professions.

Thank you for your consideration of my perspective and request.

Sincerely,

Robert Penney MD  
Family Physician  
Middlesex VT