

Hello Representatives,

I am a current optometry resident at the VA in White River Junction who resides in Fairlee, VT. I am writing today to express support for S64.

As a graduate of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Drexel University, laser procedures such as SLT and YAG Capsulotomy, "lump and bump" procedures, and injections were included in my education. As you are well aware, these procedures are not within my scope of practice as a licensed optometrist in the state of Vermont, and I am therefore not able to practice to the full extent of my education. As I am currently at the VA where providers may practice to the full extent of what state licensure they have obtained, I have had the opportunity to be involved in fluorescein angiograms (requiring injection) and papilloma removals ("lump and bump" procedures). Having the ability to do these as well as laser procedures in general practice within the state of VT would have a great beneficial impact on patients in need in this region regarding continuity of care as well as convenience.

If I had decided to practice in a state where these procedures were included in the scope of optometry, I would already be able to perform them. This gap in scope in Vermont detracts from the appeal of practicing in the state, which otherwise has proven to be a lovely place to work and live for the past year.

Best,
Sarah Edwards OD