

Testimonial

Mr. Chairman and Directors, Officers and members of the Board of Registration, my name is Blair Wong and I am the Executive Director to the Opticians Association of Massachusetts and the Department Chair of the Opticianry Associate Degree program at the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology.

2. Statement of Concern:

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to have had such a long and rewarding career as a MA Licensed Optician. My concern is that, despite the dedication and diligent volunteer service provided to the Commonwealth by the members of the BOR for Dispensing Opticians, the current executive order may result in either the diminishing , or even the possible sunseting of our MA license for Opticians. If this were to take place, it would have a detrimental, perhaps devastating, effect upon the quality of eye care provided to the general public, as well as to the development of our future MA leaders in the optical profession.

Supporting Statements:

Many mass optical retailers have reported that their MA locations are consistently amongst the highest performing locations in the country. It is not unusual for many of the mass retailers to showcase their MA

locations for their great success in both sales, and customer service. Many of the mass retailers have flagship stores located in MA.

High sales matched with high performance in customer service and satisfaction is the direct result of customers receiving quality and advanced technical care.

Basically, since opticianry in MA is a licensed profession, optical stores of any type, employ only those opticians who meet the requirements of licensure and are truly knowledgeable and technically skilled.

From a leadership perspective, I have had the great opportunity to be mentored by some of the finest opticians in MA. Early in my career I was fortunate to work along side with Kenneth Collinson. It was his court victory in the 1970's that defined contact lenses as a "medical Device or apparatus" and allowing the fitting and contact lenses to be a part of the opticians license. Since that ruling, all MA licensed opticians, have had the opportunity to fit and dispense contact lenses.

MA opticianry is recognized across the country as one of the strongest states, the strongest licensing board, and a licensure that many state use as a model license as their own goal to achieve.

Other great MA Opticianry leaders like Ken Collinson have regularly contributed to the advancement of our profession on both a local and national level.

The list of MA Opticians who currently serve on national committees and organizations are:

Dibby Bartlet, OAA Director

Denyse Gautghier, OAA Leadership Chair

Amy Lewis, NAO Director

Doug Nunes, COA Chairman

John Parrelli, Treasurer, CLSA

Jonathan Parrelli, Director to the NAO, CLSA And ABO-NCLE

Catherine Selucky, CLSA Director

Blair Wong, ABO-NCLE Director, OAA Leadership Committee, Director Vision of Hope

MA opticianry is regarded nationally as a very progressive, highly active and strong segment of the profession. The strength of the MA license is partially responsible for the opportunity for many of these opticians to be nominated for these leadership roles on a national level.

In closing, I am hopeful that this opportunity for review of the rules and regulations, and the evaluation of the actual need for a licensing board, is a positive one.

Once again, wish to reiterate my gratitude and appreciation for being able to refer to myself as "proud to be a MA licensed optician".

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