

## **Testimonial**

**Mr. Chairman and Directors, Officers and members of the Board of Registration, my name is Lisa Bourque. I am a Massachusetts Apprentice Optician and serve as the representative and associate director to the Opticians Association of Massachusetts Board. I thank you for the opportunity to express my viewpoint here today.**

## **Statement of Concern:**

**My concern is that any changes which compromise the current rules and regulations required for apprentices will be detrimental to the safety, health, and welfare of the general public.**

## **Supporting Arguments:**

**I promote maintaining the high educational standards, as currently required for apprentice opticians and students of opticianry on their pathway to becoming a licensed professional. This includes all aspects pertaining to the designing, analyzing, fabricating, modifying, fitting, dispensing, ordering, verifying, and troubleshooting for prescription spectacles and contact lenses.**

**With regard to an educational proposal for apprentices provided to the BOR in January 2015 from Blair Wong, the Benjamin Franklin Institute will soon be offering evening, weekend, and online enhancement programs.**

**Currently, licensure requirements include the completion of an apprenticeship program or an associate degree which is accredited by the Commission of Opticianry Accreditation (COA). COA accreditation requires that all aspects of opticianry, including contact lens education, be part of the degree. The elimination of contact lens education or any other aspects of opticianry for an apprentice optician would create a discrepancy in the two pathways to licensure.**

**Summary & Closing: In closing I would like to state that highly educated and technically skilled apprentice and licensed opticians are able to provide the general public with the very best services, and altering this process as proposed would be detrimental to the safety, health, and welfare of the public.**