



Rhode Island Optometric Association
PO Box 438 • Greenville, RI 02828
P: (401) 949-0433 • F: (401) 223-6400
rhodeisland.aoa.org

February 12, 2024

The Hon. Susan Donovan
House Committee on Health & Human Services
Room 101 - State House
Providence, RI 02903

H-7297 – AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- OPTICIANS

Dear Chairwoman Donovan:

I am writing on behalf of the 155 members of the Rhode Island Optometric Association to express our support for the above referenced legislation.

Simply said, we think there is a demonstrable need for opticians in our state and that a second pathway towards a state license may be helpful in addressing the shortage.

It is also believed that many optometric practices would take part in an apprenticeship program should one be created as H-7297 proposes.

If you have any questions or need anything further, please do not hesitate to call the RIOA at (401) 949-0433 or email us at rioptometric@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maria Jablonski", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maria Jablonski, OD
President

Cc: Members, House Health & Human Services Committee