



March 17, 2022

Written Proponent Testimony on SB 559
Senate Transportation Committee
By Vicki Whitaker, Executive Director
On behalf of the
Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine

Chairman Petersen, Vice Chair Claeys, Ranking Minority Leader Hawk and members of the Committee, the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM), founded in 1913, represents osteopathic physicians and the osteopathic profession in Kansas.

KAOM is a proponent on Senate Bill 559. The bill is needed to limit the liability of ophthalmologists and optometrists who perform eye tests on those who have failed a driver's license eye examination and been given a form to have completed by an eye care professional. Their role is not to determine whether someone can safely operate a motor vehicle, their role is to ascertain the individual's level of visual acuity and eye health.

SB 559 provides ophthalmologists and optometrists liability protection. Without this legislation it will be difficult, if not impossible, to find someone who is willing to complete the vision form. It is the responsibility of the Department of Motor Vehicles to determine whether an individual can safely operate a motor vehicle and issue that person a driver's license. The bill also makes clear the reported visual health is current at the time of the examination to provide the ophthalmologists and optometrist protection should the individual experience loss of vision after the examination date.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony. I am available to answer any questions you may have on KAOM's position on SB 559.

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