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To: Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee
Re: Letter of Support for LD 1803

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Members of the Committee:

As a licensed occupational therapist dedicated to promoting independence, safety, and quality of life for my patients, I am writing in strong support of LD 1803.

Vision plays a foundational role in nearly every activity of daily life, from reading and driving to dressing, cooking, and navigating safely. In my clinical work, I frequently collaborate with optometrists to address visual impairments that impact function. However, delays in care or limited access to essential eye health services often create barriers for patients, particularly in rural or underserved areas.

LD 1803 permits optometrists to fully utilize their training in providing in-office procedures and managing ocular conditions with appropriate pharmaceutical treatments. These changes are safe, evidence-based, and in line with the education optometrists receive nationwide. By modernizing Maine's optometric scope of practice, this bill helps ensure patients receive optimally, coordinated, and effective care.

This is especially critical for older adults and Maine's aging population. When optometrists are authorized to act promptly, outcomes improve and unnecessary burdens on patients, caregivers, and the healthcare system are reduced. For the sake of patient access, efficiency, and improved quality of life, I respectfully urge your support for LD 1803.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to healthcare access in Maine.

Sincerely,
Kelly Pruett, OTR/L
Licensed Occupational Therapist