

**Sam Cady, M.D.**  
**Testimony in Opposition**  
**LD 1803**  
**An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Optometric Practice**  
**May 13, 2025**

Dear HCIFS Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Sam Cady. I have worked in Portland as an ophthalmologist for over 20 years. After 4 years of university, I completed 4 years of medical school followed by 5 years of post medical school training (internship, residency, and fellowship). The post medical school training was all under the supervision of fully trained, experienced physicians.

I have performed over 20,000 sight restoring/sight saving intraocular surgeries and over 6,000 ophthalmic laser procedures. What I can say from my experience is that the difference between a highly successful outcome and a severe complication resulting in permanent vision loss or blindness is quantifiably miniscule. It is **incredibly simple** to cause substantial harm to someone and can take less than a millisecond.

I have colleagues and friends who are optometrists. I highly respect and value them personally and professionally. My wife is an optometrist.

However, to postulate that these surgical procedures are 'simple and safe' could not be further from the truth. This is a patient safety issue at its core. Passage of this bill will increase the number of visually impaired and blind Mainers through the work of untrained providers. I strongly encourage you to reject it.

Sam Cady, MD