



Brad Farrin  
Senator, District 3

132<sup>nd</sup> MAINE SENATE

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Augusta, ME 04333

**Testimony in support of  
LD 1803, An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Optometric Practice  
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
May 13, 2025**

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

My name is Brad Farrin. I live in Norridgewock, and I have the honor of representing folks from Kennebec, Penobscot, and Somerset Counties in Senate District 3. I'm here today to speak in favor of LD 1803 – a bill that makes good, common sense when it comes to getting people the eye care they need.

In my part of the state, we've got a little of everything – small towns, working families, retirees, and people doing their best to make ends meet. But no matter where I go, I keep hearing the same thing: folks are having a hard time getting in to see doctors, especially when it comes to vision and eye health. They're waiting too long, driving too far, and missing work just to get a simple procedure done.

We all know Maine's one of the oldest states in the country – nearly one out of every five Mainers is over 65, and that number's only going up. With that comes more issues like glaucoma, cataracts, and other aging-related eye conditions. These problems aren't just inconvenient – they affect people's lives, their safety, and even their ability to stay independent.

That's why LD 1803 matters. It would let optometrists – the eye doctors most Mainers already see and trust – perform a handful of simple, in-office procedures for conditions they are already treating such as styes and glaucoma. These are low-risk, noninvasive procedures that don't involve cutting, anesthesia, or injections into the eye. They're done right there in the office chair, and in many cases, the same day you're diagnosed.

Right now, patients have to go find an ophthalmologist for these procedures – and that's no small task. Some counties don't have any at all. And when the nearest one is miles and miles away, you've got to figure out transportation, take time off work, and possibly wait months for a consult, to be followed by an additional wait to perform a procedure. That just doesn't work for a lot of people.

Optometrists are already trained to do these procedures – they go through four years of school focused entirely on the eye. Over 145,000 of these procedures have been done safely in other states for more than 25 years. Fourteen states already allow it. It's time for Maine to do the same.

Let's cut down on wait times. Let's give folks care closer to home. And let's make sure Mainers can keep seeing the doctors they know and trust.

Thank you.

*Transportation Committee \* Government Oversight Committee  
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