

Peggy Smith
Enfield, ME
(207)478-2788

I have an excellent optometrist, Dr. Ian Jones, who is surrounded by a very capable and caring staff. I have been going to this practice for several years and they have always treated me with expertise, kindness and very good care. They know me, they know my eyes, and they know my ocular history. Last winter my optometrist (Dr Jones) diagnosed me with a problem that required simple laser treatment, and he referred me to a specialist. The treatment itself took only a few minutes but required multiple extra trips to a location that was farther away. This all occurred during the dead of our lovely Maine winter, which as you all know, can involve some treacherous driving. I live in a rural area of central Maine and these trips required me to have a driver which meant I had to inconvenience someone else. So, every extra excursion involved worry about the weather forecast and the driving conditions. Additionally, if there had been a weather problem, I'd have been very reluctant to call the specialist to postpone because the scheduling is more difficult in that office than at my primary optometrist's office.

I had some trepidation before and after my procedure, so it made more sense to me to call Dr. Jones, rather than the specialist who doesn't really know who I am. In all cases, Dr. Jones knew instantly who I was, what my history was, what the procedure entailed, and he put my mind at ease with his knowledgeable and compassionate explanations. I'm a nurse, so I know that patients always have better outcomes if we can do anything to help lessen anxiety and unnecessary worry. I think it would be far better to have this sort of procedure done in my primary optometrist's office where I feel "at home," where travel is more convenient, and where I know what to expect.

Thank you for listening to me. I hope you will take into consideration the patient's point of view when evaluating how you will vote on this bill.