

January 31, 2023

Dear Utah Ophthalmology Society Member,

As you know, the 2022 legislative session ended with no expansion of optometric scope of practice in Utah. Here is a refresher in an article by KSL on what our fight for patient safety looked like last legislative session here in Utah: [KSL Article After House Vote](#) -Be sure to read through the comments.

UOS leadership, our lobbying team, and UOS members worked hard to protect patient safety and launched a campaign to stop optometric expansion.

Over the past several years, optometry won several battles in expanding their scope and are now licensed to perform scalpel and laser eye surgery without the proper training. Last year's optometry bill in Utah would have allowed optometrists open-ended authority to perform ~100 types of various surgeries on and around your eyes, including scalpels to cut out lesions, cysts, and tumors, Intraocular injections, and lasers to perform glaucoma and post-cataract surgery.

The cost of fighting these bills is extreme, last year our costs here in Utah were over \$200,000. We expect the fight to be on going with the new review of optometry's scope of practice and the new optometry school in Provo ([Link To Rocky Mountain Optometry School](#)). Our contract with our lobbyist is also being extended well into 2024.

Your support is crucial to our efforts to help with this fight. We thank those who have contributed to our lobbying fees and PAC. Unfortunately, many of our members have not yet contributed. If you have not yet contributed, we hope you will help and send a contribution of at least \$250 to either our UOS lobbying fund or PAC.

Your contribution will go toward lobbying, paying for political ads, and contributions to legislative campaigns.

Here are the ways you can contribute:

- Go to the UOS website www.utaheyemds.org – from there choose physician resources.
- Venmo – UOS business account @utaheyemds

Sincerely,

UOS Board of Directors
