

February 6, 2023

Dear Senator / Representative,

I am writing to you regarding legislation to remove limitations on legend drugs put forth by Optometry as submitted in HF 1031 and SF 659.

I have been a practicing, board-certified Ophthalmologist (MD) in Minnesota for the past 13 years and have worked closely with many Optometrists in both an MD/OD internally integrated private practice setting, as well as external co-management arrangements. I greatly respect the education, knowledge, skills, and clinical judgment of my Optometric colleagues.

I recommend that the prescribing limits on oral antivirals, carbonic anhydrase inhibitors, and the exclusion of oral steroids is no longer necessary for Optometrists that have received appropriate training on the prescribing and monitoring of these medications.

I hope that my opinion will help as we attempt to modernize the scope of practice for my Optometric colleagues and improve the efficiencies in delivering medical eyecare to our communities in Minnesota. If you would like to discuss this legislation further, please feel free to contact me at 612-396-9574.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DFolden', written in a cursive style.

David Folden, MD