WHEREAS, in 2018 the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) adopted education, advocacy, student experience, and tools for success as the four pillars of its organizational foundation; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the AOSA embarked on a rebranding campaign, including relaunching its website and revamping its publication, Foresight; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the AOSA donated nearly $10,000 to Optometry Cares® - the AOA Foundation, thereby creating student disaster relief grants; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the AOSA provided students with over $50,000 in scholarship and grant opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 one hundred and thirty-nine AOSA student members attended the “AOA on Capitol Hill” meeting to join their fellow AOA members in advocating for the profession in Congress; and

WHEREAS, AOSA designates Optometry’s Meeting® as their only national optometry student meeting; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, over 2,300 optometry students traveled to Washington D.C. to attend the inaugural AOA+ event during Optometry’s Meeting in Washington, D.C.; and
WHEREAS, the 2017 AOA+ event provided student members with the experience of making a difference for the profession of optometry by advocating at our nation’s capital; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 AOA+ event demonstrated to student members the power of a united profession, and has had a lasting positive impact on participants’ decisions whether to remain members of the AOA; and

WHEREAS, AOA and AOSA are planning another AOA+ event for the 2023 Optometry’s Meeting in Washington, D.C., and providing travel grants to students to encourage participation by defraying the cost of attendance; and

WHEREAS, a goal of the 2023 AOA+ event is to further engage optometric faculty to help reinforce the value that AOA can provide to optometric educational institutions and faculty, and for their students; and

WHEREAS, AOSA has created an interactive map resource on its website to help connect student members with AOA affiliated associations; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the AOA finds that these developments demonstrate a renewed dedication and commitment on the part of the AOSA to the success of its membership, the AOA, and the profession of optometry; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the AOA calls upon all AOA affiliated associations to recognize the extraordinary achievements of the AOSA and to reward its dedication by strengthening outreach efforts to optometry students and recent graduates; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the AOA calls upon all AOA affiliated associations to encourage attendance at AOA+ for all of their student members, and to otherwise strive to demonstrate the value of lifelong membership in the AOA for all student members and new doctors of optometry.

THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED AS SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AS YOU CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION.
POSSIBLE FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: After consultation with the AOA Secretary/Treasurer, the potential cost to the AOA of this resolution, if adopted, would be approximately: None.