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 2021, the program’s inaugural year, the AOSA awarded 32 grants to underrepresented minority pre-optometry students to put towards entering the profession; and

WHEREAS, the AOSA continually educates optometry students on the value of the AOA and AOA affiliated associations, as exemplified in 2021 by an inaugural student welcome event in which approximately 1,000 students from the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico participated; 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 students from around the country attended the “AOA on Capitol Hill” meeting, to join their fellow AOA members in advocating for the profession in Congress, and either in-person or virtually, to support the profession’s advocacy efforts; and

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

WHEREAS, AOSA continues to ensure that the mission of the organization is upheld as empowering students to thrive as doctors of optometry; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the AOA finds that applauds the AOSA these developments demonstrate a renewed for its continued 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.

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.