

2021 AOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

LETTER ASSIGNED: B TITLE: Building a Diverse Profession

SOURCE: AOA Board of Trustees

STATUS: Referred to the House of Delegates

DATE: June 23, 2021 TIME: 9:15 a.m. MT

NOTE: Wording in the current Resolution 1694 proposed to be deleted ~~lined-out~~
Wording in the current Resolution 1694 proposed to be added underscored

~~Ethnically Diverse Recruitment~~ Building a Diverse Profession

- 1 WHEREAS, the American Optometric Association, in conjunction with the National
2 Optometric Association, the National Optometric Student Association, the
3 Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, and the American
4 Optometric Student Association, continues to recognize the need for more
5 intensive, extensive and inclusive programs ~~of ethnic diverse for the~~
6 ~~recruitment recruiting, e.g., African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics~~
7 ~~and other of individuals who are members of groups which are~~
8 underrepresented ~~group~~ethnic groups in optometry; and
- 9 WHEREAS, there is a critical and pervasive shortage of ~~optometrists~~ doctors of optometry
10 from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds*; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the recruitment, admission, enrollment, retention, ~~as well as~~ and availability
12 of financial aid resources for members of underrepresented groups are of
13 ~~increasing~~ continuing concern to the ~~mentioned~~ groups profession; and
- 14 WHEREAS, in the year 2020, optometry, along with other professions, recognized the
15 need for a renewed effort to address gaps in access to professional education
16 in optometry for members of underrepresented minority groups due to the
17 ongoing impact of past discrimination; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2021 the American Optometric Association and American Optometric
19 Student Association launched the Opportunities in Optometry grant program
20 to provide financial assistance to undergraduate students from
21 underrepresented minority groups applying to optometry school; now
22 therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, that the ~~American Optometric Association~~ AOA considers the recruitment,
24 admission, enrollment and retention of individuals from diverse racial and
25 ethnic backgrounds to be a high priority, and be it further

26 RESOLVED, that the ~~American Optometric Association~~ AOA continue to work with the
27 affiliated associations, as well as AOA members ~~who are representative of~~
28 ~~these ethnic and racial members of underrepresented~~ groups, and other
29 interested parties to increase the representation of ~~racial and ethnic~~
30 ~~groups,~~ such individuals both within the profession and in leadership roles in
31 the profession, and to increase the availability of financial aid sources to help
32 support access to their optometric education.

33 *Source: AOA member data, state licensing board data, NPI data, and survey
34 data.

**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:
unknown.