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

WHEREAS, the American Optometric Association, in conjunction with the National
Optometric Association, the National Optometric Student Association, the
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, and the American
Optometric Student Association, continues to recognize the need for more
intensive, extensive and inclusive programs of ethnic diverse for the
recruitment recruiting, e.g., African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics
and other of individuals who are members of groups which are
underrepresented group ethnic groups in optometry; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical and pervasive shortage of optometrists doctors of optometry
from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds*; and

WHEREAS, the recruitment, admission, enrollment, retention, as well as and availability
of financial aid resources for members of underrepresented groups are of
increasing continuing concern to the aforementioned groups profession; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2020, optometry, along with other professions, recognized the
need for a renewed effort to address gaps in access to professional education
in optometry for members of underrepresented minority groups due to the
ongoing impact of past discrimination; and
WHEREAS, in 2021 the American Optometric Association and American Optometric Student Association launched the Opportunities in Optometry grant program to provide financial assistance to undergraduate students from underrepresented minority groups applying to optometry school; now therefore be it

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

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

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