2024 AOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

RESOLUTION – UPDATING RESOLUTION 1942

LETTER ASSIGNED: A    NEW TITLE: Awareness – Policy – Action: Mobilization for Complete Pediatric Eye Exams

SOURCE: AOA Board of Trustees

STATUS: Referred to House of Delegates

DATE: June 14, 2024    TIME: 2pm CT

1  WHEREAS, efficient visual skills are necessary for successful learning in the classroom; and

2  WHEREAS, studies have demonstrated a strong relationship exists between juvenile delinquency and undiagnosed vision problems; and

3  WHEREAS, even the most sophisticated vision screenings test only for a few of the necessary learning-related visual skills, leaving most visual skill deficiencies undiagnosed; and

4  WHEREAS, significant challenges exist in closing the referral loop following a failed vision screening; and

5  WHEREAS, many eye health and vision problems can be treated successfully if diagnosed and treated at an early age; and

6  WHEREAS, the prevalence of myopia is increasing in the United States and worldwide, creating both near and long-term ocular health risks; and

7
WHEREAS, evidence-based treatments are now available to slow the progression of myopia in children; and

WHEREAS, according to a study published in the journal *Ophthalmology* in January 2023, data demonstrate the number of children receiving eye health and vision care has decreased in recent years; and

WHEREAS, according to a study published in the journal *JAMA Ophthalmology* in March 2023, the number of pediatric ophthalmologists is decreasing; now, therefore, be it

WHEREAS, efficient visual skills are necessary for successful learning in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, studies have demonstrated a strong relationship exists between juvenile delinquency and undiagnosed vision problems; and

WHEREAS, even the most sophisticated vision screenings test only for a few of the necessary learning-related visual skills, leaving most visual skill deficiencies undiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, significant challenges exist in closing the referral loop following a failed vision screening and

WHEREAS, many vision problems can be treated successfully if diagnosed and treated at an early age; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Optometric Association shall prioritize a nationwide mobilization to address the eye health and vision needs of children encourages encouraging
public awareness and policy initiatives to significantly increase the number of children who receive a complete eye and vision examination from a doctor of optometry before beginning school to diagnose, treat, and manage any eye or vision conditions.

RESOLVED, that the American Optometric Association encourages public awareness and policy initiatives to significantly increase the number of children who receive a complete eye health and vision examination from a doctor of optometry before beginning school; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these eye health and vision examinations include diagnosis, treatment, and management of any eye or vision conditions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Optometric Association shall prioritize a nationwide mobilization to address the eye health and vision needs of children.

Deleted text is shown in strikethrough. Additions are shown in underline.

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.