

**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

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

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

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

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

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27 WHEREAS, according to a study published in the journal *JAMA Ophthalmology* in March  
28 2023, the number of pediatric ophthalmologists is decreasing; now, therefore, be it

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

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

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

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

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

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45 ~~RESOLVED, that the American Optometric Association shall prioritize a nationwide~~  
46 ~~mobilization to address the eye health and vision needs of children encourages encouraging~~

47 ~~public awareness and policy initiatives to significantly increase the number of children who~~  
48 ~~receive a complete eye and vision examination from a doctor of optometry before beginning~~  
49 ~~school to diagnose, treat, and manage any eye or vision conditions.~~

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

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

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59 RESOLVED, that the American Optometric Association shall prioritize a nationwide  
60 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.