



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

August 19, 2022

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Medical Association (LACMA), and its 7,000 physician members in Los Angeles County, we respectfully ask you to please vote "no" on AB 2236 by Assemblymember Low. Assembly Bill 2236 would authorize an optometrist to perform surgical procedures on a patient's eye with scalpels and lasers, even though they lack the training that physicians must complete before performing these procedures.

AB 2236 fails to define an education program that ensures optometrists develop the clinical and surgical judgment needed to conduct the procedures outlined in the legislation. The latest amendments increase the number of required surgeries in an education program. However, those same amendments create loopholes in how the program would operate. Therefore, the training requirement is no longer meaningful.

AB 2236 fails to properly train optometrists to create a clinical care plan and see the plan through. The bill fails to consistently educate optometrists due to the lack of a structure for a clinical education program. Finally, the bill fails to ensure that optometrists maintain continued surgical proficiency through the continued use of surgical skills.

We respectfully urge you to vote "no" on AB 2236 on the Senate Floor unless amended to address the abovementioned issues adequately.

Sincerely,

LACMA Executive Committee

Omer Deen, MD
President

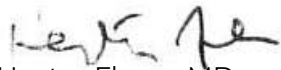
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