



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2999</b>		DATE: <b>3/4/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Professional Registration and Licensing</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 11:49 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CARLA BAAKLINI</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>MD</b>
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DANIELLE MCLAUGHLIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>RESIDENT PHYSICIAN (MD)</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>113 MADISON ST.</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JACOB SCOTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-691-5707</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>113 MADISON STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JONATHAN SCHELL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>NATHAN HESEMANN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>113 MADISON ST</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ALAN WEGENER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>HANNAH FANN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 12:56 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**My name is Hannah Fann, I am a practicing optometrist in Brookside in Kansas City, MO. I am board certified and was residency trained at the Kansas City VA. I am passionate about serving my community and want to ensure all my patients have the best access to care possible. My patients want and need quality eye care that is attainable and efficient. They are busy people whose priorities should be on their families, work, and other interests - not worrying about wait times to receive eye care. This is why your support to modernize the scope of optometric practice in Missouri is so crucial.**

**I work at an optometry/ophthalmology group practice that has locations in Missouri and Kansas. I work as a team with my talented ophthalmologist colleagues that already depend on me to provide the services listed in HB2999. This is a bill that does not improve access of care for our community, it continues to restrict it.**

**As a recent graduate (Class of 2021) who was trained on lasers and injectables at the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN, I feel my skills that could benefit our community are underutilized. The top optometric graduates will want to seek job opportunities in states in which they are able to practice to their full ability. We need these clinicians in Missouri. Our residents deserve them.**

**Ultimately, we just want to care for our patients. Please support us in allowing us to do this to the full extent of our ability.**

**Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My cell number is (443) 220-1567.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KRYSTAL MATSON, O.D.</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/2/2026 12:59 PM</b>	
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Dear Members of the Missouri House of Representatives Professional Registration and Licensing Committee,

My name is Dr. Krystal Matson and I am a licensed optometrist practicing in Missouri. I graduated in 2020 from the University of Missouri–St. Louis College of Optometry, our state’s accredited school of optometry. I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to HB2999.

The procedures outlined in HB2999 are not new, experimental, or outside the scope of current optometric education and clinical practice. They are procedures that I was formally trained to perform during my doctoral education and clinical rotations. Missouri optometrists have been safely and competently performing all of these procedures (excluding epinephrine delivery) for years under existing statute. As such, HB2999 does not meaningfully change current law or enhance patient safety. It simply restates what is already permitted.

For that reason, this bill appears unnecessary and distracting at a time when meaningful discussion is occurring around HB2897, the Scope Modernization Act for Optometry. Missouri optometrists undergo extensive education, including four years of doctoral training, national board examinations, and hands-on clinical experience managing ocular disease and performing in-office procedures such as those proposed under HB2999. Our education is specifically designed to prepare us to deliver these services safely and effectively, particularly in communities where access to care is limited.

I practice in rural Missouri where on a weekly basis we have patients walk in the front door with a traumatic foreign body needing attention. In fact, we see enough of these cases that we reserve several same-day exam slots on our doctors’ schedules specifically for emergent visits. We also rotate after-hours and weekend on-call in our practice. Often times, the emergency room or urgent care in town sends emergent patients to us for care as they cannot properly diagnose and manage with the equipment they have available to them. Our local ophthalmology group generally refers patients calling with emergent complaints to our office and tells patients they will only see them if we see the patient first and then refer to them if we do not feel we can safely remove the foreign body or if it has penetrated through the cornea.

It is disheartening to see this proposed bill framed as a “compromise” when it does not advance patient access, modernize care, or even reflect the realities of current optometric practice in our state. Missouri patients deserve legislation that improves access to timely, high-quality eye care, not bills that restate existing authority while diverting attention from substantive modernization efforts.

**As a provider serving Missouri patients, I can attest that these proposed procedures are already part of routine, evidence-based optometric care. They are performed safely within our training and licensure and are essential to maintaining access, especially in rural and underserved communities. Optometry and ophthalmology each play important and complementary roles in the delivery of safe and quality eyecare, and the procedures referenced in this bill are already safely and effectively performed by both professions within their respective scopes of practice.**

**I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose HB2999 and instead focus on legislation that genuinely strengthens patient access and reflects the full education and competency of Missouri optometrists; Representative Farnan's HB 2897 does that.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.**

**Sincerely,**

**Krystal R. Matson, O.D.**



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<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MIKE NICHOLS, OD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHELBY BAUGH BRUNER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 10:44 AM</b>
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**My name is Shelby Baugh Bruner and I am a private practice owner and optometrist from SWMO. As currently written I do oppose HB 2999. In the spirit of showing our willingness to negotiate I believe I can support this bill if it adds the language from Rep. Farnan's HB 2897.**