

May 27, 2014

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Jindal,

The 106 undersigned organizations representing physicians across the state and the country are writing to express our serious concerns over House Bill 1065 by Representative Rogers Pope, and respectfully request that you veto the bill.

Put Patients First!

HB 1065 gives optometrists open-ended authority to perform almost any surgical procedure. Many people believe that expanding the scope of practice of non-physicians equates to increasing patient's access to care. Sadly, increasing access to inadequately trained providers only fosters a two-tiered system of care that threatens overall patient safety. Furthermore, some patients may be under the false impression that they are receiving care from a physician, which increases the likelihood that they suffer unnecessary complications instead of seeking an accurate diagnosis by an expertly trained physician.

Our patients deserve the best care - not just "good enough" care. This bill authorizes optometrists to perform procedures using multiple methods and instruments including scalpels, lasers, needles, ultrasound, ionizing radiation and by burning and freezing tissue. Optometrists do **not** have the training to perform these procedures or manage the complications that can arise with these procedures.

Furthermore, optometrists performing these procedures would be the **only** profession allowed to perform surgery outside the purview of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME). Every other surgical procedure in the state falls under the regulation of the LSBME to ensure patient safety— why should optometrists be allowed to practice without this same oversight?

In closing, we urge you to veto HB 1065 to ensure patient safety and protect the good health of the citizens of our state. Your thoughtful consideration of this issue is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Louisiana State Medical Society
Louisiana Ophthalmology Association
Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians
Louisiana Dermatological Society
Louisiana Pathology Society
Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association
Louisiana Society of Anesthesiologists
Louisiana Society of Plastic Surgeons
Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Cardiologists
Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Louisiana Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians

Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
Louisiana Chapter of the American College of Surgeons
Medicine Louisiana
Radiological Society of Louisiana

Acadia Parish Medical Society
Allen Parish Medical Society
Ascension Parish Medical Society
Assumption Parish Medical Society
Avoyelles Parish Medical Society
Beauregard Parish Medical Society
Bossier Parish Medical Society
Calcasieu Parish Medical Society
Capital Area Medical Society
Claiborne Parish Medical Society
Delta Parish Medical Society
DeSoto Parish Medical Society
Evangeline Parish Medical Society
East/West Feliciana Parishes Medical Society
Iberia Parish Medical Society
Iberville Parish Medical Society
Jefferson Davis Parish Medical Society
Jefferson Parish Medical Society
Lafayette Parish Medical Society
Lafourche Parish Medical Society
Morehouse Parish Medical Society
Natchitoches Parish Medical Society
North Central Parishes Medical Society
Orleans Parish Medical Society
Ouachita Medical Society
Pointe Coupee Medical Society
Rapides Parish Medical Society
River Parishes Medical Society
Sabine Parish Medical Society
Shreveport Medical Society
St. Bernard Parish Medical Society
St. Landry Parish Medical Society
St. Martin Parish Medical Society
St. Mary Parish Medical Society
St. Tammany Parish Medical Society
Tangipahoa Parish Medical Society
Terrebonne Parish Medical Society
Tri-Parish Medical Society
Vermillion Parish Medical Society
Vernon Parish Medical Society
Webster Parish Medical Society

American Academy of Family Physicians
American College of Surgeons
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association

Medical Association State of Alabama
Arizona Medical Association
Arkansas Medical Society
California Medical Association
Colorado Medical Society
Connecticut State Medical Society
Medical Society of Delaware
Medical Society of the District of Columbia
Medical Association of Georgia
Hawaii Medical Association
Idaho Medical Association
Indiana State Medical Association
Iowa Medical Society
Kansas Medical Society
Kentucky Medical Association
Maine Medical Association
Maine Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Med Chi, the Maryland State Medical Society
Massachusetts Medical Society
Michigan State Medical Society
Mississippi State Medical Association
Missouri State Medical Association
Montana Medical Association
Nebraska Medical Association
Nevada State Medical Association
New Hampshire Medical Society
New Hampshire Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
New Mexico Medical Society
Medical Society of the State of New York
North Carolina Medical Society
North Dakota Medical Association
North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Ohio State Medical Association
Oklahoma State Medical Association
Oregon Medical Association
Pennsylvania Medical Society
Rhode Island Medical Society
South Carolina Medical Association
South Dakota State Medical Association
Tennessee Medical Association

Texas Medical Association
Utah Medical Association
Vermont Medical Society
Medical Society of Virginia
Washington State Medical Society
Wyoming Medical Society