





### **Glaucoma treatment:**

- Optometrists diagnose and treat glaucoma routinely.
- As technologies advance, new non-invasive treatments and drug delivery systems are expected.
- Current language limits treatment by optometrists to oral and topical medications and would prevent utilization of new advancements in treatments.

### **In-Office Procedures:**

- Optometrists are trained to do several in-office procedures that do not require systemic anesthesia and can be treated with little to no recovery time. Examples include the removal of chalazia or skin tags. With an updated Practice Act, these procedures can safely be done in an optometry office (rather than referred to a surgeon). The 2021 DORA report asserts, ***"These are brief procedures with minimal to no recovery time. Because an OD is a trained professional, risk to the patient is virtually nonexistent."***
- As recommended by DORA, competency for these procedures can be determined through national standardized testing and additional rules passed by the State Board of Optometry.
- Once again, Colorado is falling behind other states, setting back patient care. KY, LA, AR, AK, ID, TN, OR, GA, MS and our neighboring states of NM, OK, and WY all include these in-office procedures within the optometry scope of practice.
- In conjunction with the 2021 sunset review, the Colorado Office of Policy, Research, and Regulatory Reform (COPRRR) found that there has been **NO** increase in regulatory actions taken against practitioners in other states where optometrists are performing these procedures. Our Practice Act, along with many other states', has it written into law that ODs are held to the same standard of care as other licensed professionals.
- Due to the current statutory barriers, wait time for removal of these lesions can be long and burdensome for patients, especially those in rural Colorado who have limited treatment options and increased travel burden. The DORA report confirms, ***"Access to eye care professions in rural CO is lacking. A patient should not be forced by Colorado law to see a different professional for minor procedures. This is especially the case when a trained professional is in the room making the diagnosis and advising the patient. Forcing a patient to expend extra time and resources to unnecessarily see an additional specialist appears to be statutory overreach when viewed through the lens of the sunset criteria."***

**WITH THE 2022 SUNSET REVIEW, COLORADO HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE AND ACCESS TO EYE CARE.**

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