



February 20, 2024

Senator Erin Maye Quade
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3227
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Robert Bierman
579 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Concerns regarding SF 659 and HF 1031

Dear Senator Maye Quade and Representative Bierman,

Thank you for the opportunity to review SF 659 and HF 1031, which seek to expand the scope of practice for optometrists in the state. Mayo Clinic is the world's oldest integrated medical practice with a mission to inspire hope and promote healing and wellness through practice, research and education. I appreciate the opportunity to provide the following comments.

Mayo Clinic traditionally does not take positions on scope of practice issues except in the rarest of circumstances when there are concerns that such changes could impact patient care and safety. The proposal under consideration meets this threshold in our review, and the risks to patient health exceed the potential benefits of this expanded role, especially as it relates to the expanded surgical and prescribing authorities. Similar legislation has been introduced in the past, but the safety concerns remain in this latest iteration. Mayo Clinic continues to have concerns and is aligned with the Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology (MAO) in opposing the legislation.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to share these concerns, and I would be happy to discuss further if so desired.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Vilendrer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nikki Vilendrer
Director, Government Relations