



MINNESOTA ACADEMY
of OPHTHALMOLOGY

5865 Neal Avenue North, #217
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March 21, 2024

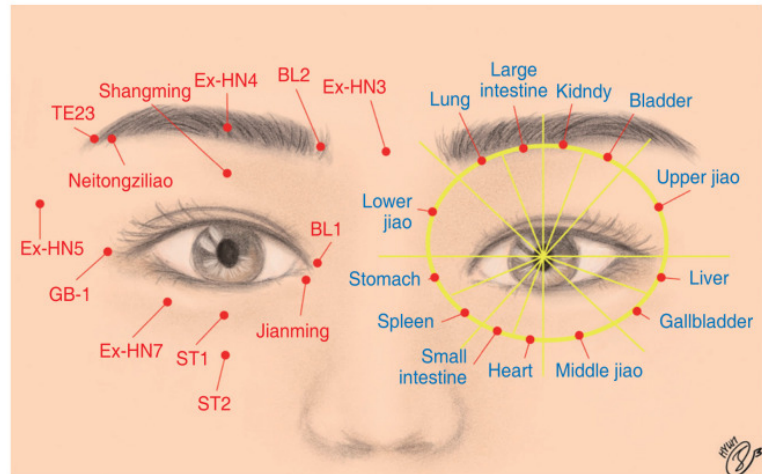
Chair Melissa Wiklund
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2107
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund,

On behalf of the Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology, I write to express concerns for SF 2342, which proposes to allow **acupuncturists** an expanded scope of practice including **injections of “prepared herbal products, vitamins, minerals, and homeopathic or other substances”** that are prepared for injection via non-intravenous hypodermic needles into acupuncture points.”

The insertion of needles and the injection of substances in and around the eyes pose serious safety risks to the eyesight of Minnesotans. Several papers reporting severe adverse ocular events from acupuncture treatments, including eyeball penetrations leading to loss of eyes, have been recently published in peer-reviewed medical journals. ([Korean J Ophthalmol](#). 2023 Jun; 37(3): 255–265.; Am J Ophthalmol Case Rep. 2020 Jan 30;18:100605.) In addition,

multiple systemic side effects can occur with the injection of substances into the eyelids and areas surrounding the eyes, including heart arrhythmias, asystole (complete stoppage of the heart), or high blood pressure.



KJO 2023, 37(3): 255-265 Published image.

We ask you to oppose SF 2342 as currently written. We will make ourselves available for additional conversations on this healthcare legislation.

Thank you for working to find a safe and responsible path forward.

Sincerely,

Timothy W. Olsen, M.D.
President, Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology