

Closing the Patient Eye Care Gap:

SUPPORT HF1011/SF1144



Minnesota ranks in the **bottom 20%** nationwide for optometry scope of practice. HF1011/SF1144 removes outdated restrictions, aligning our state with the majority of the country and **improving patient access to critical eye care.**

HF1011/SF1144

- All procedures in the bill have been taught and tested in optometry schools for decades.
- No state has ever reversed an optometry scope expansion, proving its safety and effectiveness.
- Malpractice rates remain unchanged in states where these procedures are already allowed.
- Studies show significant decline in visual impairment when scope expands for Doctors of Optometry.
- A growing eye care shortage is projected to worsen by 2035. (Reported by an ophthalmology journal)

Doctors of optometry have been managing ocular disease for decades. Unfortunately, with no updated scope laws in the last 20 years, **Minnesota optometrists are forced to practice outdated optometry**, leaving Minnesotans in desperate need of eye care with a short list of imperfect options.

Optometrists are expertly trained to deliver an essential component of patients' overall primary health care; the doctoral level degree program in optometry is comprised of four years of extensive didactic and clinical training at an accredited optometry school. During a comprehensive eye exam, doctors of optometry not only determine eye and vision health, but can also identify early signs and manifestations of systemic diseases including diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer and more. Minnesota optometrists prescribe medications for ocular disease, assist in the prevention of disease and provide urgent ocular care for injuries and infections.

HF1011/SF1144 would ...

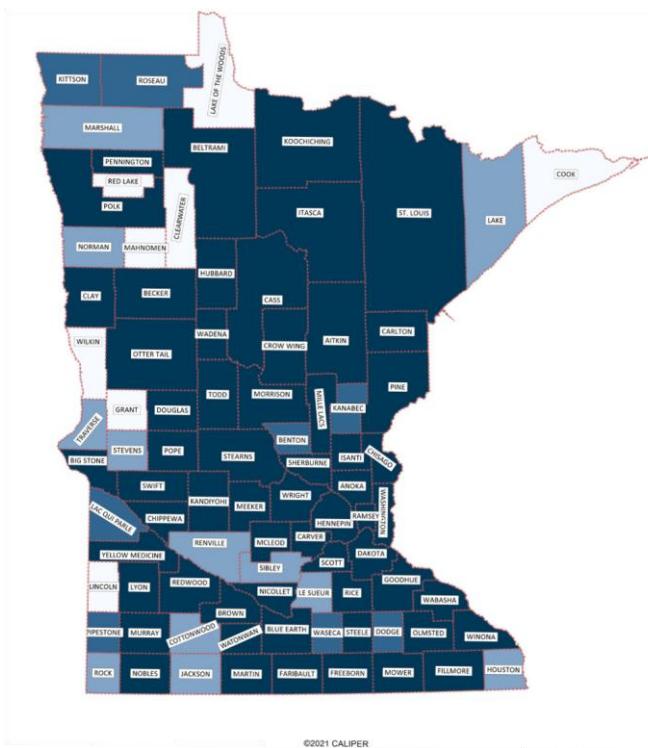
- Remove 10-day restriction on oral antivirals (48 states allow).
- Remove 7-day restriction on oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitors (44 states allow).
- Allow oral steroids with a 14-day limit (44 states allow).
- Permit injections to treat eye conditions (25 states allow).

Minnesotans deserve the right to see their trusted eye doctor for the care they need. Support **HF1011/ SF1144** to ensure access to modern, high-quality optometric care.

Access to Essential Eye Care for Minnesotans

Doctors of optometry provide **more than two-thirds of primary eye health care in America** and more than 99 percent of the U.S. population lives in counties with an eye doctor.

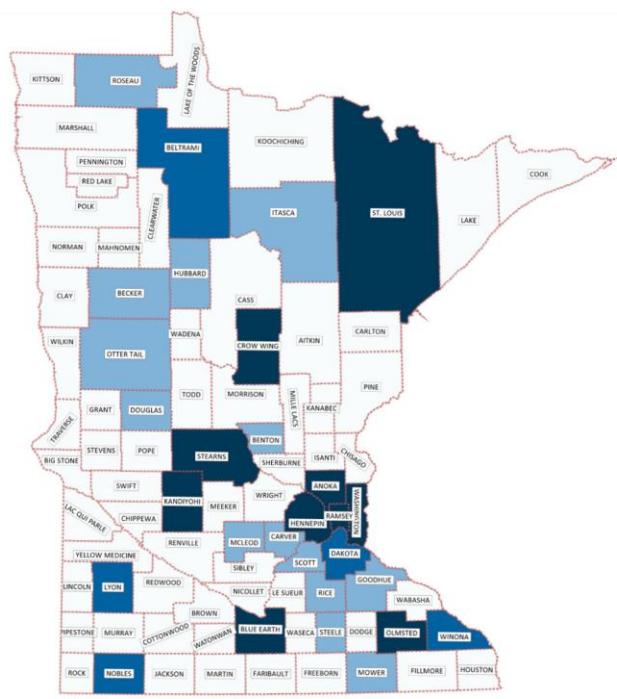
Optometry has greater geographic distribution and is more accessible to patients than other eye care professions in Minnesota; 77 out of 87 counties in Minnesota have an Optometrist.



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Minnesota Access to Eye Care – 2022

Doctor of Optometry Location/Doctor Combinations



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Ophthalmology Locations/Doctor Combinations

Contact Minnesota Optometric Association
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OR

Learn more by scanning
the QR code or by visiting
trustedeyecaremn.com



Minnesota's Optometrists