



December 12, 2013

Deputy Ricardo Anaya Cortés
President of the LXII Parliament
Chamber of Deputies, Mexican Congress

Honorable Deputy Anaya Cortés,

Re: Proposal to modify Article 79 of the Health Bill

I am writing as President of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO), the academic leadership organization representing all accredited schools and colleges of optometry in the fifty states of the United States and Puerto Rico. The twenty-one ASCO member institutions train and educate our nation's optometrists.

It is ASCO's understanding that the Mexican Congress will consider the modification of Article 79 of the Health Act to include optometry among the health professions that require a university level degree for its practice. This has the potential to improve the quality of optometric services offered to the Mexican population.

We support the view of the World Council of Optometry (WCO) that the inclusion of optometry in the Health Bill will also enable the appropriate legislation and regulation of the profession with benefits for the population in terms of provision of higher quality eye and vision care. Universities in Mexico have been educating optometrists for more than 60 years; therefore requiring optometrists to attain a university level degree in order to practice is an excellent first step in establishing the highest standards of eye and vision care that the population deserves.

ASCO respectfully requests that you support the proposal of Honorable Deputy Mario Alberto Dávila Delgado to include optometry in Article 79 of the Health Act as a profession that requires a university level degree as a qualification to practice.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Smythe".

Jennifer Smythe, O.D., M.S., President
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

cc. Lourdes Meza, President, AMFECCO