



**Opticians Association of America**  
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**Consideration of Merging the Ohio State Board of Optometry  
and Ohio Optical Dispensers Board**

**Opticians Association of America would like to voice its strong opposition to this action.**

Established in 1926, as the Guild of Prescription Opticians, the Opticians Association of America (OAA) serves as the single unified voice of the profession of opticianry and to the commitment of promoting the professional stature of opticians through leadership, education, legislative representation, and communication. OAA fosters, supports and sponsors programs of competency certification, licensing and continuing education for the professional development of all opticians.

It has come to the attention of our organization that Ohio's Sunset Review Committee is considering merging the State Board of Optometry and the Optical Dispensers Board.

The Opticians Association of America would like to voice its strong opposition to this action.

- The Optical Dispensers Board already consists of dually licensed opticians, spectacle opticians, ophthalmologists, optometrists, and two consumer members that protect the citizens of Ohio, as well as regulate opticianry practice in your State.
- The Optical Dispensers Board remains fiscally viable, as it is fully funded through licensing and registration fees. The Optical Dispensers Board also contributes annually to Ohio's 4K9 Board Fund.
- The Optical Dispensers Board continues to show great efficiency by utilizing a web based system for the renewal of licensed opticians and apprentices. This effective system produces a 98% renewal rate.
- No other licensed state in the Union has delegated the responsibility of optician licensure to a State Board of Optometry due specifically to the fact that licensed opticians are independent practitioners who work in a number of different settings within the overall eye health system. Licensed opticians do not practice solely with optometrists.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the Opticians Association of America's opposition to merging the State Board of Optometry and the Optical Dispensers Board.

Christopher M Allen  
Executive Director  
Opticians Association of America