[California Optometric Association](http://www.coavision.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=1" \t "_blank)

For Immediate Release

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**California Optometric Association Statement on 2018-19 State Budget Release**

Sacramento, CA – The California Optometric Association released the following statement from President Dr. Sage Hider, OD, in response to Governor Brown's 2018 – 19 budget proposals:

“Eyes are a crucial part of Californians' health and daily lives, from learning in the classroom to mobility in our elder years.  Last year, California took a significant step forward to expand opportunities for healthy eyes and healthy lives by restoring eyeglass benefits through Medi-Cal. This investment will help people with low incomes work and drive safely and encourage more Californians to obtain comprehensive eye exams that can save lives with early detection of diabetes.

"In today's budget proposal, optometrists were encouraged to see the Administration is reviewing provider rate augmentations made last year to ensure they are meeting the Prop. 56 goals of expanded access to care for people and families who utilize Medi-Cal.  With vision so important to California’s health, Optometrists encourage the Administration to bring optometric care rates up from near-worst in the nation to deliver on the promise of access to care, deliver even greater returns on the Medi-Cal eye care benefit, and enlist more eye doctors in California’s front - line defense against the costly and deadly diabetes crisis.”

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*Established in 1899, the California Optometric Association is California's oldest organized community for doctors of optometry. Representing doctors of optometry throughout the state, COA is dedicated to support and advance the profession of optometry to assure quality health care for all Californians. Learn more at*[*coavision.org*](http://coavision.org/)*, Facebook.com/CaliforniaOptometric and*[*Twitter.com/COA\_Vision*](http://www.twitter.com/COA_Vision)*.*