
COA HOD ACTIVE POLICY RESOLUTIONS

March 2019



**CALIFORNIA
OPTOMETRIC
ASSOCIATION**

2019 PR#2 Policy on California State Board of Optometry Membership

RESOLVED, that it is the policy of the California Optometric Association for the doctor of optometry members of the California State Board of Optometry to represent all modes of optometric practice, including independent doctors of optometry, and that this policy shall guide COA's SBO appointment advocacy activities.

2018 PR#1 Presidents' Council*

RESOLVED, that 2017 COA House of Delegates Policy Resolution Four be amended to expand options available for the COA Presidents' Council to meet that minimizes expenses and allows for maximum society representation attendance and time to discuss and act on issues of importance to COA societies;

RESOLVED, that the COA President's Council meeting be held annually; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the COA President's Council be held at Monterey Symposium or earlier, so that ideas considered at the meeting for potential policy resolutions or bylaws amendments may be submitted by societies in a timely manner; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the annual COA Presidents' Council meeting be held in conjunction with another COA event, when feasible, excluding the COA House of Delegates; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the COA President's Council be held over at least one full day to allow for the dissemination and discussion of topical issues among the attendees.

*Amends 2017 PR#4

2017 PR#4 Presidents' Council

RESOLVED, that the COA President's Council be held annually at an easily accessible location that encourages membership participation and minimizes participants' expenses; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the COA President's Council be held at least 30 (thirty) days prior to the deadline to submit a bylaw amendment to the COA House of Delegates so that ideas considered at the meeting for potential policy resolutions or bylaw amendments may be submitted by societies in a timely manner; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the COA President's Council be held over at least one full day to allow for the dissemination and discussion of topical issues among the attendees.

2017 PR#5 Candidate for California State Legislative Interview Process

Resolved, that the 2017 House of Delegates recommends that the COA Board of Trustees to review and carry out a process to increase the number of COA members and COA student members participating at candidate interviews at the state and local levels; and, be it further

Resolved, that COA member and COA student member interviewers submit a summary of the candidate interview to the appropriate COA Key Person Coordinator and COA staff following the interview.

2017 PR#6 Parental Leave Dues Adjustment

RESOLVED, that a member is eligible for a “parental leave” reduction of 50% of the COA and society dues amount then-paid by that member who takes time off work to deliver and/or bond with a new child or a child in connection with adoption or foster care placement; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this 50% dues reduction applies within one year of the birth, adoption or start of foster care of a child, is limited to the time the member actually takes off work, and shall not exceed six (6) months maximum; and, be it further

RESOLVED that this dues reduction may be extended for an additional six (6) months, but not to exceed 12 (twelve) months of parental leave dues reduction eligibility in total, for a serious pregnancy-related medical condition or serious health condition of the new, adopted or foster child; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the eligible member submit a written request to COA for the parental leave dues reduction or parental leave dues reduction extension; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the COA include information about parental leave dues reduction on the membership category page of the COA website.

2017 PR#7 Children’s Vision Legislation

RESOLVED , that the 2017 House of Delegates directs the COA Board of Trustees to make the passage and adoption of children’s vision legislation one of its primary goals.

2017 PR#8 Student Submission of Proposed Policy Resolutions

RESOLVED, that the student section of COA may submit policy resolutions for consideration at the COA House of Delegates meetings.

2017 PR#9 COA Legislative Day

RESOLVED, that the House of Delegates strongly recommends that the Board of Trustees hold the COA Legislative Day annually in Sacramento.

2016 PR#1 COA Policy Resolutions: Definitions and Retention

RESOLVED, that the COA House of Delegates (HOD), in an effort to clearly set forth the designation of policy resolutions adopted so as to better guide the governance and operation of COA, and to maintain those policy resolutions in an organized manner that is transparent to all members and other stakeholders as deemed appropriate, enacts the following definitions of policy resolutions and the mechanisms for their documentation and storage:

1. **Active:** A policy resolution that represents the policy of COA as adopted by the COA HOD and in which its intent or mandate is being actively implemented or pursued by COA. These resolutions shall be kept in a record called "COA Active Policy Resolutions."
2. **Standing Policy:** An active policy resolution that has been implemented, completed or achieved, and has been determined to reflect an ongoing matter, which the COA HOD determines continues to be policy of COA. These resolutions shall be kept in a record called "COA Standing Policies," which shall replace the "COA HOD Resolution Implementation Record" created by Policy Resolution 6 in 2013.
3. **Archived:** An active or standing policy resolution that has been implemented, completed, achieved or replaced that the COA HOD determines is no longer applicable or representative of COA policy. These resolutions shall be kept in a record called the "COA Policy Resolution Archive."

And, be it further

RESOLVED, that active, standing policy and archived resolutions be subject to review as COA societies and the COA Board of Trustees deem necessary in accordance with the procedures set forth in 2013 Policy Resolution 6, titled "Review of Policy Resolutions"; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that active, standing policy and archived resolutions be made accessible electronically or otherwise by **1)** chronologically listed and attached to the COA bylaws, and **2)** as separate documents by classification.

2016 PR#2 Mandatory Children's Comprehensive Eye Exams

RESOLVED, that the California Optometric Association take up the cause of children with undetected vision problems by working with appropriate state agencies that will promote the early detection of vision and eye health problems; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the COA Board of Trustees make every effort to communicate with concerned organizations, such as those representing pediatricians, nurses, etc., regarding the importance of comprehensive eye and vision care for children; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that given the fact that vision screenings are not an adequate substitute for the detection of many vision or eye problems in children, that the COA Board of Trustees make every effort to introduce and/or support legislation requiring all California children to have a comprehensive eye exam before being admitted to school; and, be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution replace and render null and void 1964 Policy Resolution A-7, 1973 Policy Resolution 7, 1984 Policy Resolution 4, 1991 Policy Resolution A-8, 2000 Policy Resolution 7, 2001 Policy Resolution 7, 2001 Policy Resolution 9 and 2003 Policy Resolution 10, relating to early detection of children's vision and eye problems and place those resolutions in the COA Policy Resolution Archive.

2016 PR#3 Optometric Medi-Cal Fees

RESOLVED, that it is the policy of the California Optometric Association that doctors of optometry be reimbursed equitably under the California Medi-Cal system; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the California Optometric Association pursue all options to achieve Medi-Cal reimbursement equality, including, but not limited to, requesting the Public Vision League to initiate appropriate action; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the California Optometric Association keep its membership informed of its actions in this regard; and, be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution replace and render null and void 1995 Policy Resolution 9 and 1996 Policy Resolution 15, relating to Medi-Cal reimbursement equity for doctors of optometry, and place those resolutions in the COA Policy Resolution Archive.

2016 PR#4 Review of 2011 and Earlier Resolutions

RESOLVED, that the recommendation noted on the COA HOD policy resolutions listed below be adopted.

2014 PR#4 California Vision Project Retention

BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Vision Project be retained as a charitable program of the California Optometric Association within the entity structure of the California Vision Foundation, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the COA secretary-treasurer and staff determine the minimum cost for COA to administer the California Vision Project and report the results to the California Vision Foundation Board and the COA Board of Trustees, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the COA secretary-treasurer negotiate, based upon the cost study, a fair and reasonable charge to the California Vision Project for administrative services provided by COA, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the California Vision Project and all those who donate services, products and monies be recognized and congratulated in a manner to be determined by the COA BOT for 25 years of assistance to Californians in need.

2014 PR#5 Optowest

RESOLVED, that the possibility of retaining OptoWest as a multi-day educational meeting held in a major metropolitan area be reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

2010 PR#1 Updating State and Federal Medicaid Laws

RESOLVED, that the COA supports the federal Social Security Act to provide full parity, consistent with scope of practice, for optometrists in the Medicaid program, in the same manner as now provided for Medicare; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the House of Delegates urges every COA member to ask his or her U.S. Senator and Representative to co-sponsor and support federal legislation granting Medicaid parity for doctors of optometry in the same manner as Medicare.

2010 PR#7 TPA Credit for Traumatic Brain Injury CE Courses

RESOLVED, that the 2010 COA House of Delegates recommends that the Board of Trustees petition the State Board of Optometry to include all continuing education courses on the subject of Neuro-optometric diagnosis and treatment of vision dysfunctions following traumatic brain injury be recognized for Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents (TPA) continuing education credit; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the COA evaluate sponsoring legislation to amend Section 3059 of the Business and Professions Code to remove categories of eye diseases and conditions to which TPA credit must be applied.

2009 PR#6 Children's Vision Legislation

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees direct the Legislation and Regulation Committee to evaluate and make a recommendation on sponsorship and introduction of legislation in 2010 requiring all California children to have a comprehensive eye exam before being admitted to school.

2004 PR#6 Educator Member- AOA Bylaws

RESOLVED, that upon successful passage of COA Bylaws Amendment Number Four to the 2004 House of Delegates that the COA Board of Trustees seek the following change in Article 1, Membership, Section 1 E of AOA Bylaws:

“An optometrist is considered an “educator” if he or she is primarily engaged in school-related activities such as teaching, research, direct and indirect patient care within the institution, and/or administration at a University or College in the United States. Such institutions may be either an Optometry School or College accredited or pre-accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education, or an equivalent institution of higher learning. An optometrist, certified annually by a school or college for purposes of this membership classification determination as being at least one-half (1/2) full-time equivalent, shall be eligible for “optometric educator” membership in this Association.

2004 PR#10 Chair for an Optometric Clinician/Scientist at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

RESOLVED, that the 2004 California Optometric Association House of Delegates wishes to go on record in support of the successful creation of the position of faculty level Chair for an Optometric Clinician/Scientist to enhance research and educational activities in vision science at the Jules Stein Eye Institute and Department of Ophthalmology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

2002 PR#5 Third Party Pay

RESOLVED, that the California Optometric Association aggressively encourage third party payers to reimburse optometrist or patients for the enhanced level of optometric eye care, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the California Optometric Association accomplish this through negotiation, the judicial process, legislation or any other feasible avenues.

1996 PR#13 Optician Filling of Outdated Prescriptions

RESOLVED, that the California Optometric Association take appropriate steps to inform the general public and appropriate state agencies including the State Board of Optometry as the licensing and regulatory agency for dispensing opticians, and the Pharmacy Board of California, as the licensing and regulatory body governing pharmacists in the State of California, of the danger inherent in the filling of expired prescriptions and to take appropriate steps to insure that their licensees adhere to the expiration date contained in ophthalmic prescriptions.

1993 PR 2 CPR Certification

RESOLVED, that the California Optometric Association Board of Trustees encourages all members to maintain current certification in procedures to cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

1992 PR#13 CPR Certification

RESOLVED, that the House of Delegates recommends the COA Legislative Committee pursue, at the appropriate time, legislation mandating optometrists to maintain a current CPR certificate.

1991 PR#12 Clarification Of State Board Policy Regarding Non-Traditional Patient-Doctor Settings

RESOLVED, that the California Optometric Association's Board of Trustees take the necessary steps needed to bring about a clarification of the official policy of the California State Board of Optometry concerning the opportunity to provide care in non-traditional settings; and be it

RESOLVED, further, that the California Optometric Association's Board of Trustees take the necessary and appropriate steps to insure that the patients in such settings have access to optometric care.

1990 PR#A-3 Freedom of Choice Laws

RESOLVED, That the California Optometric Association continue to seek legislation to strengthen existing freedom of choice laws in California; and be it

RESOLVED further, That the California Optometric Association encourage the American Optometric Association to continue to seek federal legislation to give optometry true freedom of choice laws.

1982 PR#A-3 Corporate Practice

RESOLVED, That the board of trustees of the California Optometric Association, in alliance and conjunction with other associations, engage in all endeavors necessary to appeal to the public and other stakeholders to prevent changes in California law that would allow lay control of health care practices in this state.

1975 PR#A-8 Third Party Health Care Programs

RESOLVED, That optometric vision care be included in all third party health care programs; and be it

RESOLVED further, That optometric vision care include the full scope of the practice of optometry.

1973 PR#A-11 Freedom of Choice

RESOLVED, that the 1973 House of Delegates of the California Optometric Association request that the California Optometric Association continue to make every effort to insure that freedom of choice of health care practitioners is an integral part of all health care delivery systems.