

## **California Optometric Association Statement on Governor's May Revision**

Sacramento, CA – The California Optometric Association released the following statement from President, Dr. Sage Hider, O.D., in response to the Governor's Brown's 2017 – 18 May budget revision:

"With federal health care funding in jeopardy, California can't afford to retreat from our investment in prevention-oriented healthcare that saves lives and reduces costs.

"To that end, California's doctors of optometry are leading a multi-pronged initiative with Medi-Cal health plans and clinics to reverse an epidemic of diabetes that robs Californians of their sight, health and dollars. We were encouraged that the summary of Governor Brown's budget revision released today recognizes the role of dental care in overall health, but disappointed that it does not include restoration of eyeglass benefits under Medi-Cal.

"The ability to obtain eyeglasses to work, drive, or go to school is a primary reason Californians visit the eye doctor for crucial comprehensive exams that are often the first place signs of diabetes or hypertension are observed. Restoring the vision benefit will connect more Californians with the comprehensive care they need for earlier diagnosis of diabetes, and save lives and dollars in the long run.

"We also encourage Governor Brown and legislators to uphold the will of Prop 56 voters, who supported a tobacco tax increase to strengthen healthcare by bringing provider rates up from near-worst in the nation."

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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](https://twitter.com/COA_Vision).