



August 26, 2024

Adam Schneider, Esq.  
Executive Director  
State of Nevada Board of Optometry  
P.O. Box 1824  
Carson City, NV 89702

Dear Mr. Schneider:

I want to clarify some misconceptions regarding advocacy efforts being exercised by the Nevada Optometric Association (NOA). The NOA has maintained its mission to ensure that all Nevadans have access to high-quality care. The NOA has also advocated for Nevadans by ensuring that optometric care is directed, controlled, and influenced only by Nevada-licensed Doctors of Optometry consistent with Nevada Optometric laws. As you know, Nevada law dictates that optometric practices may only be owned, directed, or controlled by Doctors of Optometry.

Further, the NOA would like to clarify some of its comments during the Nevada State Board of Optometry workshop on July 31, 2024. Comments such as "NOA is aligned with the AOA as part of its function to advocate for our patients and profession" rely on the "Advocacy" tab on the AOA's website. A characterization that the NOA "aligned" with any other aspect of the AOA's mission misconstrues the statement. However, the AOA was not apprised of or aware of in advance of any comments made by the NOA at the workshop.

As stated multiple times during the workshop, the NOA is neither for nor opposed to any particular business model between licensees and non-licensees. However, any business arrangement between a licensee and a non-licensee should remain consistent with Nevada laws that an OD must have sole ownership of an optometric practice or organization that controls, dictates, and influences the practice of optometry.

The NOA will continue to pursue its mission of ensuring patients have access to high-quality care and that our profession supports optometry laws.

Thank you,

Steve Girisgen, OD  
Nevada Optometric Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Girisgen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.