



**Testimony Of Brian T. Lynch, O.D.  
Supporting Raised H.B. No. 5257  
An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Prescription Eyeglasses For  
Covered Dependent Children Who Are Younger Than Nineteen Years of Age  
Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
March 10, 2020**

I am Dr. Brian T. Lynch, I am a practicing optometrist in Branford and serve as a Legislative Chairman for the Connecticut Association of Optometrist. This testimony is both the position of the CAO as well as mine.

The CAO and I support the merits of H.B. No. 5257 and applaud its intentions. In my practice over the years, I have encountered multiple patients who find it a struggle to provide needed eyewear for their children. To have coverage for them would alleviate this burden and ensure that young people are equipped with the eyeglasses that they need to excel.

However, on the other hand, it is another mandate and, ultimately, another expense to employers and individuals who are self-insured.

I believe a compromise might be to encourage/require insurers or employers to offer access to a vision care rider that could fulfill this need for parents of patients faced with this dilemma, without overburdening their employer.

I hope my insights were helpful.