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Testimony of Brian T. Lynch, O.D.
S.B. No. 982 (Raised) An Act Revising Motor Vehicle Statutes
(Sections 19 and 20)
March 8, 2021

Senator Cassano, Representative Lemar, Senator Somers, Representative Carney and members of the Transportation Committee, I am Dr. Brian Lynch, private practicing optometrist in Branford, resident of North Branford and legislative chairman for the Connecticut Association of Optometrists.

The purpose of my testimony is to support the proposed changes of Section 19 and 20 of S.B. No. 982 (Raised) An Act Revising Motor Vehicle Statutes. In essence, these changes will require a vision screening for all new drivers license applications and for those who have let their license expire.

Obviously, before granting a license it is important to verify that an applicant has the visual ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. The proposed changes maintain an individual's ability to have this screening conducted by the DMV or now by an outside medical provider. Both the type of provider and parameters of the screening are already spelled out in the current statutes. These changes will insure we are only licensing qualified candidates and provide applicants with a choice as to who will conduct the screening. I believe this will lighten the burden on the DMV and, for those uncomfortable with utilizing the DMV, it gives them an alternative.

I encourage your support of the changes to Sections 19 and 20 of S.B. No. 982 (Raised) An Act Revising Motor Vehicle Statutes. It will ensure that all applicants are screened and make the process more convenient for the applicants without any increased expense to the consumer or the DMV.