

JOHN C. BEAR, MEMBER
97TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE
PO BOX 202097
HARRISBURG PA 17120-2097
PHONE: (717) 787-1776




HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

DISTRICT OFFICE
1555 HIGHLANDS DRIVE, SUITE 110
LITITZ PA 17543
PHONE: (717) 626-1776

E-MAIL: jbear@pahousegop.com
www.repbear.com

MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative John Bear 

Date: February 1, 2011

Subject: **Co-Sponsorship of Ophthalmic Definition of Surgery**

In the near future I plan to introduce legislation that will define ophthalmic (eye) surgery. Pennsylvania law currently prohibits anyone, other than a physician, to perform eye surgery. However, nowhere is "surgery" defined. In other states, state boards have defined surgery, thereby allowing certain types of surgery to be performed by unqualified individuals. Therefore, for the safety of the citizens of the Commonwealth, it is my intent to specifically define the term "surgery" under the Medical Practice Act.

My Ophthalmic or "eye" definition of surgery legislation includes language that ensures no part of the current scope of practice an optometrist has is erased. Every optometrist will be able to perform everything that is within their scope after this legislation is signed into law.

I believe my legislation is critical to the safety and overall quality of care received by the citizens of the Commonwealth.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this important piece of legislation, please contact Debra Brehm at 787-1776 or dbrehm@pahousegop.com. Thank you!