

MEDICAL SOCIETY
of the
STATE OF NEW YORK

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Division of Governmental Affairs
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

**ON SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION
COMMITTEE AGENDA**

S.7614 (FUNKE)

**IN ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION
COMMITTEE**

A.10209 (MCDONALD)

**AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the
delegation of certain professional responsibilities for
instilling mydriatic or cycloplegic eye drops**

This legislation would amend the education law to permit ophthalmologists or optometrists to supervise trained personnel in the administering of eye drops to patients. **The Medical Society of the State of New York supports this legislation.**

There are instances where it is necessary for ophthalmologists (MDs) and optometrists (ODs) to dilate patients' pupils in performance of a comprehensive eye exam. Dilation allows the pupil to widen, letting more light in so that the MD or OD has a better view of the back of the eye. Use and administration of dilation eye drops, and occasionally anesthetic drops used in conjunction, is a safe, simple process and it is the standard of care. This bill would allow the training and authorization of allied eye care providers to instill eye drops without the risk of such delegation being considered professional misconduct or improper delegation. Enactment of this bill will increase practice and health care team efficiencies as well as adding to patients' convenience by decreasing the average time patients need to spend in ophthalmology and optometry offices.

Based on the foregoing, the Medical Society of the State of New York supports this legislation and urges its enactment.

Respectfully submitted,

4/30/18 – Support
MMA

MSSNY DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS