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## **MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

### **A.5879 (Cahill) / S.3101 (Stachowski)**

The New York State Society of Opticians supports this bill, which authorizes ophthalmologists, optometrists and ophthalmic dispensers to join together to form limited liability entities. This bill would remove an artificial impediment to joint ownership and permit those who would choose to provide their professional services in a collaboratively owned and operated practice to do so, consistent with the twenty-six other states which permits the formation of collaborative professional practices.

If enacted, this bill would authorize physicians, optometrists and ophthalmic dispensers to join together to form professional service corporations, limited liability companies and registered limited liability partnerships.

It is well established that the current law is unreasonably restrictive and serves no legitimate public purpose. There is simply no evidence which suggests that jointly owned practices are any less committed to the best interests of their patients than single profession owned practices or existing multi-dimensional practices.

Significantly, this bill does not require professionals to form multi-disciplinary practices professional corporations or limited liability companies or partnerships. Instead, as a result of this bill's enactment, members of certain medical professions will be afforded the option to form professional corporations and derivative entities as set forth herein.

The enactment of this legislation would strengthen the partnership of eye care providers and enhance their ability to better serve their patients and approve their quality of care. This sensible approach to addressing quality of care while authorizing the establishment of multi-disciplinary eye care facilities should be adopted by the State.

This bill would make New York law consistent with the practices in virtually all of New York's neighboring States, including New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New Hampshire. In order for New York to retain its leadership role in the areas of medical professions, such professionals must be provided with the option to form practices that may be best suited to meeting the needs of their patients.

It is for these reasons that the New York State Society of Opticians supports the passage of this legislation.