

May 29, 2013

The Honorable Joseph A. Griffo
New York State Senator
188 State Street Room 612, Legislative Office Building
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12247

State Governmental Affairs

Dear Senator Griffo:

On behalf of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and its worldwide membership of 31,873 medical eye physicians and surgeons, I am writing to thank you for the introduction of Senate Bill 5493.

As you know, Senate Bill 5493 would require health care practitioners to wear a photo identification name tag during patient encounters that includes the type of license held by the practitioner. Senate Bill 5493 would also require the health care practitioner display a document in his or her office that clearly identifies the type of license that the practitioner holds.

The Academy believes that these provisions will help patients better understand the qualifications and level of expertise of the practitioners who are treating them for their diseases. We believe that empowering consumers of health care with this basic information will result in better outcomes for patients in the state of New York. In today's interconnected world, reliable and informative internet sites - such as the Academy's own website - can provide patients with basic background information about their conditions and treatments. However, this is only a part of the information that patients need to make wise health care choices about their providers. You clearly understand that there is another important part to this equation. Patients must also be provided information on the basic qualifications of the health care practitioners who offer to treat them. Senate Bill 5493 provides a simple, low-cost and commonsense solution that addresses the needs of today's patients for information.

Once again, on behalf of the ophthalmology community and the patients that we serve, we thank you for your introduction of Senate Bill 5493.

Sincerely,



Daniel Briceland, MD
Secretary for State Affairs
American Academy of Ophthalmology