

November 2, 2021

Dear WAEPS Member,

This kind of year comes once every twenty years. It has the potential to shape the rest of your career, and your involvement and generosity now will reverberate for decades. As you know, there is an optometric scope battle on the horizon, which means that the future of your practice and the safety of your patients are in the crosshairs. If we ever needed your support, this would be the year.

You might be asking, 'so what happens if this gets passed?' What does this mean to you and all of our patients in Washington state? **If passed as proposed, optometrists would be able to perform:**

- YAG capsulotomies
- Selective laser trabeculoplasty
- Peripheral laser iridotomies
- Lid lesion removal
- Intra-lesional steroid injections
- Subconjunctival steroid injections

And they would be able to self-regulate their scope by a vote of their own board, which is a violation of the constitution of the State of Washington.

While it's easy to feel apathy, anger, or resignation, I invite you to see the **opportunity** here. Opportunity to shape the way we practice and to take the bull by the horns. Opportunity to stand up for Washingtonians who don't know the harm that might befall them. And opportunity to take a stand against the onslaught of nationwide optometric attempts to legislate their way to becoming surgeons by skipping medical school. Because what we do now defines who we are as doctors and as people.

So what can you do? Our ask is simple:

1. **Renew your WAEPS membership today for 2022**

Here are your log-in credentials:

Username: ##[Username]##

[Click here to](#) **renew your membership in WAEPS and to give support to your profession.**

2. Give generously to:

- a. The [AAO Surgical Scope Fund](#), SSF, (which funds battles both here and nationally)
- b. The [Washington Eye Foundation](#), WEF, which supports the charitable, educational and scientific activities of WAEPS and has 501c3 status to allow tax deductible contributions.
- c. The [Physicians EyePAC](#) state-level **bipartisan** political action committee, WAEPS is able to make strategic contributions to the candidates and legislators in Olympia who can positively impact healthcare legislation.
- d. Our **NEW WAEPS** [Safe Surgery Fund](#). This is non-reportable, and non-discoverable. This means that you can donate any amount you want without fear of discovery or repercussion from referring providers.

- i. True fact: Fighting the scope battle this year will cost WAEPS approximately **\$310,000** dollars in additional expenses. We need your support or WAEPS may cease to exist because we are fighting to protect your practice.

3. Get involved

Over the next few months, we will be asking more of you, from simply emailing your legislators ([find them here](#)), to getting to know them, to even engaging your patients. We need your support now, more than ever.

Even if advocacy is not your interest, **we need you to stand up for your profession.** We will still be providing education through the Monthly Meeting Series, the Wisdom of WAEPS series, and the Annual Meeting; the OMIC member discount for WAEPS members; and the Young Ophthalmologists Section get-togethers. There are plenty of reasons to stay involved.

Your personal and financial involvement are key ingredients to our ongoing survival and success. It couldn't be easier, just click the link below to renew online or write a check and return it to our WAEPS office with the enclosed invoice or go to our website: www.waeps.org.

Click the link below to pay the attached invoice:

Here are your log-in credentials:

Username: ##[Username]##

[Click here to](#) renew your membership in WAEPS and to give support to your profession.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We continually strive to strengthen our organization and we encourage your feedback and active participation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Kimberly Conn, at the WAEPS office at (206) 956-3652, kim@wsma.org.

Sincerely,



Hubert Pham, MD
2021 President, WAEPS

*We are actively seeking ophthalmologists across our state to become more involved.
Please reach out to any of your WAEPS leaders to learn more.*

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