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To: Board Members

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Subject: Agenda Item 14 – Update and Possible Action on Children’s Vision and Mobile Clinic Workgroups

This report is intended to provide the Members with an update on the workgroups for Children’s Vision and Mobile Clinic Workgroups.

Children’s Vision:

Previous Legislation: Senate Bill [402](#) (Mitchell) Pupil Health: Vision Examinations

Senate Bill 402, introduced by Senator Mitchell, requires a pupil’s vision to be examined by a physician, optometrist, or ophthalmologist, as specified, and requires the pupil’s parent or guardian to provide the results of the examination to the pupil’s school. This bill prohibits a school from denying admission to a pupil or taking any other adverse action against a pupil if his or her parent or guardian fails to provide the results of the examination. If the results of the examination are not provided to the school, this bill requires a pupil’s vision to instead be appraised pursuant to existing law, as specified. The bill passed out of both Senate Education Committee and Senate Health Committee with no “no” votes. However, the bill was placed on suspense and did not pass out of Senate Appropriations Committee. This is the farthest the bill has gotten.

Workgroup History and Update: As previously reported, the Board created a workgroup to work with stakeholders on this issue and present stronger legislation for the next legislative session. The workgroup, comprised of Rachel Michelin and Dr. Kawaguchi, met on February 18 and again on April 28 with stakeholders. Educators, optometrists, nurses, insurance agencies and youth advocates all came together to discuss the important issues facing children’s vision.

The next workgroup meeting was originally scheduled for August needed to be moved to accommodate a change in schedule. The workgroup is currently finding a date and location that will work best and will present draft bill recommendations back to the Board.

Mobile Clinics:

Previous Legislation: Senate Bill [349](#) (Bates) Optometry: Mobile Optometric Facilities

Senator Bates introduced SB 349 in 2015 which would have created guidelines for mobile optometric facilities, in order to help secure the availability of quality vision care services for patients who receive care in remote or underserved areas. This bill would have established standards for the operation of mobile

optometric facilities, including physical requirements, ownership limitations, record-keeping protocols. The bill did not make it out of Senate Committee on Business and Professions.

Workgroup History and Update: During the November 2015 Board Meeting, the Board created a workgroup to work with stakeholders on this issue and present stronger legislation for the next legislative session. The Board President appointed Rachel Michelin and Lilian Wang, OD to the workgroup. The workgroup held its first meeting with stakeholders in April 2016. The workgroup heard several concerns related to the initial bill language and decided the best option was continue working with stakeholders to draft new language rather than work to fix the previous bill.

The workgroup will continue working with stakeholders and bring recommendations back to a future meeting. The next workgroup meeting will address draft bill language and recommendations back to the full Board.