



NEW YORK STATE
SOCIETY OF OPTICIANS, INC.

“Advancing and protecting the Ophthalmic Dispensing profession since 1936.”

An Open Letter to New York State’s Opticians from NYSSO

To New York State Opticians:

As licensed professionals in a retail industry there are constant challenges and threats to practicing Opticianry in New York State. Among the most serious threats to our license is having so many states that are not licensed, which fosters the concept of “certified Opticians” and “certified ophthalmic techs”. These **unlicensed** individuals are not only jeopardizing the public’s health and safety, they are **violating** the law and are impacting our earning potential by taking away our jobs!

Clearly we all pay a premium to insure our cars, apartments, homes and assets. So why wouldn’t a Licensed Optician in New York State insure their **most valuable asset** to gain employment at the highest salary... **your license!**

NYSSO is the only organization that pays a lobbyist with direct access to our state lawmakers and government offices in Albany. Fighting unlicensed practice is a major priority of NYSSO.

With that being said, we have several opportunities before us. At the forefront is a collaborative effort to combat the continued **hiring** of unlicensed employees as dispensing Opticians. It is evident that there is strength in numbers and now more than ever, we need your support. Here is what we’re doing to combat this challenge:

- **Increase vigilance in reporting unlicensed/illegal practices to the Office of Professional Discipline (OPD) at the State Education Department.** NYSSO leaders have met twice this year with the Executive Secretary for the State Board and officials from OPD in order to reinforce the need for additional investigators and increased enforcement. This effort is showing some results as new investigators have recently been hired, but we are keeping the pressure on.
- **Getting the Retail Establishment Bill Passed.** This important piece of legislation was crafted by NYSSO and will “give teeth” in fighting unlicensed practice by allowing the state to go after those who hire such people. NYSSO reintroduced this bill this past January with the start of the new legislative session. The bill passed the Senate Higher Education Committee and is before the Senate Finance Committee. We are actively monitoring its progress.

Help us protect and promote a unified profession! As the oldest professional society for New York State’s Licensed Opticians, NYSSO has members in every one of the state’s 62 counties—and this breadth of reach allows the New York State Society of Opticians to advocate for ALL Opticians.

PROTECT YOUR LICENSE... BE PART OF NYSSO !

—The NYSSO Board of Directors