

TOA Legislative Update

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Recap of Texas Legislative Session 2025

140 frenzied days of advocacy, hearings, floor action, lobbying and more...



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HB 3211

Sponsored by Chairman Dean and Senator Middleton
Any Willing Provider for Vision Plans

First any willing provider law in the US in over 20 years

Ensures fair opportunity for optometrists to join vision plan networks

Requires clear application and timely credentialing decisions

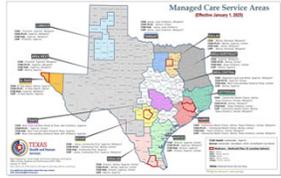
Prohibits rejection based on network size/geographic access

Mandates transparency in fee schedules and provider manuals

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HB 5512 – Medicaid Vision Payment Reform

- Would have addressed middleman cuts to Medicaid vision rates
- TOA will continue to address this issue in the interim and next session
- Molina, Parkland, Wellpoint, Superior – they subcontract with VBM's (VSP, Eyemed, Superior Vision, Versant, Centene)
- VBM's cut the state Medicaid rate by up to 60%...where does the difference go?



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Other Legislation Affecting ODs



4 'Not a Doctor' bills were defeated – most in the nation this session



Over **2,500 bills tracked by TOA** during session

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Federal Lawsuit Update – HB 1696 from 2023



- VBM and related entities are suing the state of Texas on the constitutionality of the law
- TOA is an intervenor in the case
- Only 2 parts of HB 1696 are involved
 - Steering patients to their self-owned entities
 - Tiering ODs based on the ODs business decisions
- Case is ongoing

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Enforcement of VBM laws



Scan here to report ANY insurance concerns to TOA

- Widespread non-compliance with new laws
- Texas Dept of Insurance is responsible for enforcement of the laws that have been impacted
- Relies on patient and provider complaints to spur action
- TOA is assisting many TOA member ODs with their TDI complaints and appeals

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Do TDI complaints actually work?

- Yes!
- Great record of success record over 15 years
- Recent example:
- ODs were on the vision plan associated with UnitedHealthCare but they were being denied access to UHC medical panel – TDI complaint resulted in OD accessing the panel

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Texas Grassroots Advocacy for Optometry

- 150+ ODs linked to 181 legislators
- Built through years of relationships
- Power proven through legislative successes over 20 years
- Stay involved and informed!

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Grassroots activation

- Campaign season in full swing
- Early voting starts Feb 17
- Primary Election day March 3
- General Election day Nov 4
- State-wide races on ballot – Gov, Lt Gov, Attorney General, US Senate Race*
- All House Reps up for re-election
- Half of the Senators up for re-election

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Threats

- Insurance and VBM control of the doctor-patient relationship and OD practices
- Maintaining patient safety and standard of care with new technology and telehealth
- Not a Doctor bills



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VISION CARE PLANS

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The Future

- Continued enforcement of insurance laws
- Additional insurance/VBM laws
- Children's vision
- Medicaid reimbursement
- Scope of Practice
- Safety standards in tele-eye care
- Support of optometric education institutions



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TRENDING with TOA

News for ODs from the Texas Optometric Association

Thanks for joining us for another week highlighting the top news in eye care, specifically for Texas Optometrists. Stand on for the latest in industry news, studies, policy updates, and more.

VSP Global: Vision™ and Identity
 VSP Global and VSP Vision to be leading health & vision solutions. [View Full Article](#)

Diabetes in Diabetes: Eye Care
 A new wave of research data published in the journal Diabetes Care and the International Diabetes Federation and other agencies, that shows the numbers of those who undergo eye examinations and the prevalence of diabetic eye complications. [View Full Article](#)

ACA and South Carolina election expose and defeat retail lobby group's influence
 Clearly the subject of one complaint to the US House Subcommittee on Oversight and Reform (HHS), a hearing "not" for the House of Representatives, but rather for the House of Representatives to investigate health and safety of our patients. The House of Representatives and House of South Carolina House will be a good first step in a broad investigation of the House of Representatives. [View Full Article](#)

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- TOA remains vigilant in advocacy, litigation and enforcement
- Together, we protect our patients and our profession

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