

*Lexington*



TED J. HARVEY, O.D.

JASON T. SEIM, O.D.

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To Members of the 407 Technical Review Committee,

My name is Ted Harvey. I am an optometrist whose practice is in Lexington, a rural community in central Nebraska. I am writing to you, asking that you strongly consider allowing licensed optometrists to expand their scope of practice to include performing the SLT procedure on our glaucoma patients.

I have been in practice for over 40 years, treating glaucoma patients on a daily basis. I have found the SLT to be a valuable tool in helping to control eye pressures. For elderly patients who have trouble getting drops in their eyes, or patients who can't afford multiple glaucoma medications, or for patients who are already on maximum drop therapy and still have not reached their safe target pressures, the SLT has often been a great treatment alternative. The problem often times is getting access to the treatment for our elderly patients. Many of these patients have no way to get to the nearest large city, who has an ophthalmologist who performs the procedure.

Over the last 40 years I have seen our scope of practice successfully expand to include the use of diagnostic drugs and later therapeutic drugs. I couldn't imagine being able to take care of our patients without the use of these medications. This certainly was in the best interest of patient care, and I believe the use of the SLT procedure by optometrists would also greatly improve patient care in the state of Nebraska. Many of our recent graduates have already been trained to do the procedure, and other optometrists could easily be trained and certified to do the procedure as well.

Optometry plays a vital role in health care throughout the country. We have developed a deep trust with our local primary physicians who refer us patients on a daily basis. Please allow us to better serve our glaucoma patients, by allowing us to perform the SLT procedure.

Sincerely yours,

*Ted J. Harvey*  
Ted J. Harvey, O.D.