

## Snell, Toby (PLA)

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**From:** Adam Reichert [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 3, 2026 8:13 AM  
**To:** Snell, Toby (PLA)  
**Subject:** Testimony in opposition of Proposed requirement for NBEO Laser Examination

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To the Indiana Optometry Board,

I am writing to provide my professional perspective regarding the adequacy of my ophthalmic laser training during optometry school, my preparedness to safely perform these procedures in clinical practice, and my position on the proposed requirement for the NBEO laser examination for licensure.

I received my optometric education at Southern College of Optometry (SCO), where I completed comprehensive didactic and clinical training in ophthalmic laser procedures. This training extended beyond theory; I performed laser procedures on real patients under direct supervision by ophthalmologists contracted by the school. This hands-on experience was essential in developing both technical proficiency and sound clinical judgment, ensuring I was prepared to deliver safe, effective patient care upon entering practice.

Following graduation, I initially practiced in Ohio, where I was born and raised and still currently reside. After one year, I chose to transition to Indiana to practice at the fullest extent of my training. Given Indiana's progressive scope of practice and proximity to home, I ultimately purchased a practice here so I could fully utilize my clinical skillset, including ophthalmic laser procedures.

In January of this year, in preparation for purchasing a laser, I elected to refresh and strengthen my clinical skills by attending the laser certification course at Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry rather than pursuing the NBEO laser examination pathway. This course was comprehensive and highly hands-on, providing direct supervised experience that reinforced both procedural technique and clinical decision-making. In my professional opinion, this type of immersive training is far more valuable than a scripted, proctored examination that primarily evaluates memorization rather than real-world clinical competence.

Based on my training and experience, I do not believe that requiring the NBEO laser examination is necessary to ensure competency in ophthalmic laser procedures. Competence is best demonstrated through hands-on clinical training and supervised patient care, not standardized testing alone. Educational programs such as SCO and IU, combined with structured continuing education like the NSUOCO course, provide a more accurate and meaningful assessment of readiness.

Furthermore, I believe implementing an NBEO examination requirement could have unintended consequences for recruitment and retention of optometrists in Indiana. My decision to relocate and invest in a practice here was influenced by the ability to practice at full scope without unnecessary barriers. Had an NBEO requirement been in place, I likely would not have chosen to practice in Indiana and instead would have remained in Ohio, delaying pursuit of laser privileges until legislative changes occurred there.

I respectfully urge the Board to recognize that hands-on clinical training—both during optometric education and through accredited continuing education—provides a more meaningful measure of competency than a standardized examination. Indiana is fortunate to have a strong optometric educational program at IU, and it would be prudent to invest in in-state training pathways comparable to or exceeding programs like NSUOCO. This could both help train optometrists in state and help fund other clinical programs within the college. Emphasizing practical training over additional testing will support high-quality patient care while preserving Indiana’s ability to attract and retain well-trained optometrists.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Adam Reichert**

Optometrist/Owner

Winchester Family Eye Care

