



American Optometric Association

1505 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 • (703) 739-9200  
FAX: (703) 739-9497

January 24, 2011

The Honorable Dan Lungren  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Lungren,

The American Optometric Association (AOA), the voice of America's family eye doctors, appreciates your continued leadership on a wide range of essential vision and eye health care issues before Congress. In addition, the AOA would like to recognize your ongoing efforts to prevent burdensome and costly requirements from negatively impacting the health of America's small businesses – the backbone of our economy. To that end, the AOA would like to offer its support for the *Small Business Paperwork Mandate Elimination Act of 2011* (H.R. 4).

The AOA represents more than 36,000 doctors of optometry, optometry students and paraoptometric assistants and technicians. Optometrists serve patients in nearly 6,500 communities across the country, and in 3,500 of those communities are the only eye doctors. In addition, the overwhelming majority of AOA member-practices meet the Small Business Administration's classification as a small business. And like many other small businesses across the country, optometry practices face the same negative consequences from burdensome and costly regulatory requirements, often resulting in less growth, fewer employment opportunities for local workers, and a diminished ability to provide critical services, such as primary eye and vision care, to their individual communities.

One such costly and avoidable regulatory burden expected to impact thousands of small business optometry practices across the country is the new Form 1099 reporting requirement, which will take effect in 2012 as a result of changes made to the tax code's section 6041 by the Affordable Care Act. Currently, most businesses are required to issue 1099s in a limited set of situations. Soon, we anticipate that AOA members will be required to produce Form 1099s for all payments in excess of \$600 that a small business makes in the course of regular business within a taxable year, including when paying for things such as computers, software, office supplies, and a range of services, including janitorial services, coffee services, and package delivery services. While AOA supports the enforcement intent of the provision, we feel that this provision will end-up costing the private economy much more than any additional tax that the IRS might collect as a result.

Once again, the AOA appreciates your continued leadership on a wide range of essential vision and eye health care issues before Congress. Today, we urge Congress to take the action needed to advance the *Small Business Paperwork Mandate Elimination Act of 2011* (H.R. 4). The AOA is firmly committed to helping you further this important measure and if we can be of any assistance on this legislation, or any vision or eye health related issue, please do not hesitate to contact Jon Hymes at (703) 837-1371/ [jfhymes@aoa.org](mailto:jfhymes@aoa.org) or Matt Willette at (703) 837-1001/ [mwillette@aoa.org](mailto:mwillette@aoa.org).

Sincerely,

Roger Jordan, O.D.  
Chair, AOA Federal Relations Committee

CC: The Honorable Dave Camp, Chairman - Committee on Ways and Means; The Honorable Sander Levin, Ranking Member - Committee on Ways and Means; The Honorable Sam Graves, Chairman - Committee on Small Business; The Honorable Nydia Velasquez, Ranking Member – Committee on Small Business