

By: Senator(s) Parker, Simmons (12th),
Thomas, Norwood

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DR. STEVEN REED,
2 CO-OWNER OF SOUTHERN EYE CARE OF VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI, UPON THE
3 OCCASION OF HIS ELECTION AS THE FIRST MISSISSIPPIAN TO LEAD THE
4 AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION AND FOR HIS PUBLIC SERVICE.

5 WHEREAS, we join the members of the Mississippi Optometric
6 profession in congratulating Dr. Steven Reed, co-owner of Southern
7 Eye Clinic of Vicksburg, Mississippi, upon the auspicious occasion
8 of his election as the first Mississippian to serve as President
9 of the American Optometric Association (AOA). Dr. Reed was
10 inaugurated as the 104th American Optometric Association President
11 at the AOA annual conference of the House of Delegates; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Steven Reed has served on the AOA Board of
13 Trustees since 2016 where he has held numerous roles. He serves
14 as a member of the Executive Committee, the Advocacy Roundtable
15 Committee and as a liaison trustee to a variety of committees and
16 foundations; and

17 WHEREAS, he previously served as President of the Mississippi
18 Optometric Association (MOA). "The AOA is focused on making
19 vision care and eye health accessible to all Americans regardless



20 of family income or access to insurance. It is an honor to
21 represent doctors of optometry across Mississippi and the nation
22 in our efforts to make this a reality," Reed said; and

23 WHEREAS, throughout his 30-year career, Reed has been
24 committed to educating the public on the need for comprehensive
25 eye care beginning with eye screenings for students in Simpson
26 County schools. He is also a participant in the InfantSee program
27 that provides no-cost, comprehensive eye assessments for infants
28 six to 12 months of age; and

29 WHEREAS, a graduate of Southern College of Optometry, in the
30 same class as Senator David Parker, Reed is a summa cum laude
31 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with a BS in
32 biochemistry. He is the 2010 and 2016 recipient of MOA's James P.
33 Brownlee Optometrist of the Year Award. In addition to Southern
34 Eye Care of Vicksburg, Reed co-owns and operates Southern Eye Care
35 Clinics in Clinton, Forest, and Flowood and is the owner of Family
36 Vision in Magee, Collins, and Prentiss; and

37 WHEREAS, Dr. Reed said he and the AOA board have incorporated
38 several goals into their strategic plan for 2024 - 2025. First,
39 the AOA will continue to push for reimbursement and fairness
40 coverage. Many doctors are concerned that the "quality of their
41 patient care is not mirrored in reimbursement rates," and it's
42 something he and the board would like to see rectified. In
43 addition, many vision plans require doctors to use their labs or
44 be signed onto a vision plan to be part of a separate medical



45 plan. Dr. Reed says such regulations limit opportunities for
46 practices, as small businesses, as well as limit options to care
47 for patients, and the AOA would like changes to such requirements.
48 Dr. Reed and the AOA also want to ensure that the role of the
49 paraoptometric continues to advance. "I want to see it continue
50 to grow," he says, adding that the AOA wants to make sure more
51 paraoptometrists are certified and able to help ODs in their
52 clinics. The AOA will also continue to work with its affiliates
53 to protect and promote scope expansion. "We must be allowed to
54 practice at the highest level of our training," says Dr. Reed.
55 "In addition, we will continue to provide educational resources
56 that encourage doctors to incorporate this care into their
57 practices, a concept called practicing contemporary optometry";
58 and

59 WHEREAS, MOA officials said Reed has been committed to
60 community service since beginning his career. He is past
61 President of the Magee Chamber of Commerce and the Magee Lions
62 Club and a member of the Simpson County Economic Development
63 Foundation. Steven is the father of two children, Calder and
64 Emily. He and his wife Kendra are active members of Goodwater
65 Baptist Church, where he has served as Chair of the Budget
66 Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee, a Sunday School
67 teacher, and a deacon; and

68 WHEREAS, in addition, he and his wife Kendra own the McRaven
69 Tour Home, built in 1797, which is listed on the National Register



70 of Historic Places and has been called the "Time Capsule of the
71 South" by *National Geographic* magazine. It also has the title of
72 being "the most haunted house in Mississippi." They also are in
73 the process of restoring The Inn at Cedar Grove, an antebellum
74 home built in 1840; and

75 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize an
76 outstanding Mississippi health care provider who has brought honor
77 to his profession, his community and to the State of Mississippi:

78 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
79 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Steven
80 Reed, co-owner of Southern Eye Care of Vicksburg, Mississippi,
81 upon the occasion of his election as the first Mississippian to
82 lead the American Optometric Association and for his public
83 service and extend our best wishes to Dr. Reed and his family for
84 future successes.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
86 Dr. Steven Reed and his family, forwarded to the American
87 Optometric Association and the Mississippi Optometric Association
88 and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

