

## **Correspondence – American Optometric Association**

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October 28, 1974

Bernard J. Shannon, O.D.,  
President  
American Optometric Association  
7000 Chippewa Street  
St. Louis, Mo. 63119

Dear Bernard:

Thank you for your letter regarding the feelings of optometrists in our country today. Your response is appreciated, and I hope you will continue to keep me informed of your organization's views.

Your kind words about Carlton Hicks are appreciated. Carlton is one of my closest friends and advisors.

I have taken the liberty of enclosing our issue analysis paper on health which I thought would be of interest to you.

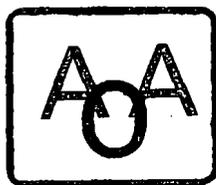
With my best regards,

Sincerely,

Jimmy Carter

JC/sg  
Enclosure

# AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION



*Suzanne -  
"TR" - say Carleton  
Heiler is one of  
my closest friends  
& advisors -*

September 27, 1974

*send health  
paper -  
copy to P.B.*

The Honorable Jimmy Carter  
1974 Campaign Chairman  
Democratic National Committee  
P. O. Box 1524  
Atlanta, Georgia 30301

Dear Governor Carter:

The American Optometric Association appreciates the generous invitation of the National Democratic Committee to discuss issues of concern to our profession.

As primary health care practitioners, we are made aware each day of the varied optometric needs of the American public - the aging, the young, working America, the urban dweller, the reservation Indian. There are many instances where optometric care should be included in State and Federal legislation and planning in order to meet more fully the requirements of our people.

In part, this inclusion entails comprehensive optometric care as a component of any National Health Insurance program that may be enacted. Medicare and Medicaid should be amended in order to provide care for that very segment of the population that can least afford or find that care and yet perhaps requires the benefits of good vision the most.

The schools and colleges of optometry must be maintained at their current level of quality, while additional campuses are established, to provide sufficient manpower to meet project need.

These are only the very tip of the concerns of the Nation's optometrists. The Association members feel very strongly their obligation to serve their patients and to assume a fair responsibility in bettering the life of all Americans.

Rather than present an indepth paper detailing our concerns and positions, we would prefer to respond to your invitation for a personal meeting. Howard P. Winton, O. D., the AOA President-Elect, will be able to meet with you in Atlanta, at your convenience. Dr. Winton, who practices at 1398 Babcock Street, Melbourne, Florida 32901, is

AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Jimmy Carter

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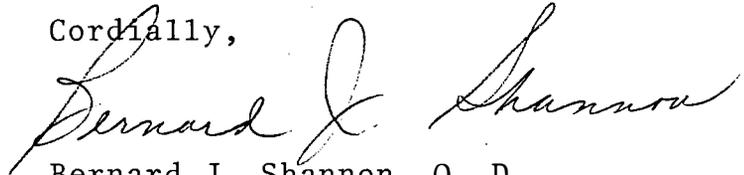
September 27, 1974

prepared to discuss with you relevant issues of concern both to optometry and to the National Committee.

The Association is most proud of the participation of Carlton Hicks, O.D., of Brunswick, Georgia, on the National Committee. His sense of civic duty is an example to us all.

Again, our deep thanks for the consideration which you and the National Committee have shown. I look forward most eagerly to a meaningful dialogue with the Committee.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernard J. Shannon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Bernard J. Shannon, O. D.  
President

BJS/N. Goff