## Carol Holland, O.D. 946 Shipwatch Dr. E. Jacksonville, FL 32225

The Supreme Co	urt of Florida		
Clerk	of	the	Court
500	South	Duval	Street
Tallahassee FL 3	2399-1927		

RE: Petition To Amend Rules Regulating The Florida Bar/Case No.: SC05-1150

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a licensed and practicing Optometrist in the State of Florida. Though my husband is a practicing attorney in Florida, I do not pretend to have any great insight into the ethical rules governing attorneys. Given the petition of the Florida Medical Association ("F.M.A.") regarding Amendment 3, I suspect I have a better grasp of the issues than most F.M.A. members.

The Amendment 3 fight and by extension the F.M.A. petition raises an issue of consumer choice. Because the petition serves to limit the choice of consumers, I would urge that it be dismissed.

My reasoning is simple and logical, not legal. As a practicing Optometrist, I work in collaboration with medical doctors to care for patients' vision. Because both professions perform eye examinations, there are some friction and competition between the professions as well. In the age of managed care, Ophthalmologists and Optometrists are both working harder to see more patients to maintain the same standard of living that was more easily maintained in years past. These economic pressures have driven the Amendment 3 fight against the legal profession.

If the medical profession succeeds against the legal profession by economically driving lawyers who represent medical malpractice victims out of business, it sets a bad precedent.

Without the intervention of this court, there is nothing to prevent an emboldened F.M.A. from attempting to eliminate economic competition from the Optometrists, as it poses a threat to Ophthalmologists. With a successful precedent of a constitutional campaign, the next proposal Amendment could grant the voting public free eye exams from all Optometrists. While this potential amendment will have great appeal to the visually impaired public, it would unfairly eliminate the profession of Optometry in the State of Florida. Surely, this chicanery is constitutionally prohibited and well beyond the intent of the framers of the constitution. Using the constitutional process to thwart business competition is contrary to the very notion of Democracy. It is as foreign to democracy as the intrusion of the F.M.A. into the ethical rules of lawyers. For these reasons, I would ask that you strike the petition and put an end to this foolish process.

Sincerely,

Carol Holland