

Senator Sue Rezin Named IOA Legislator of the Year

by Katie Lewis

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SPRINGFIELD –The Illinois Optometric Association (IOA) has named State Senator Sue Rezin as its 2026 Legislator of the Year for her outstanding contributions to the IOA.

Senator Rezin was honored during the IOA's 2026 Annual Meeting for her advocacy on behalf of Illinois patients and optometrists, including her strong support of Senate Bill 3707, legislation that increases transparency and accountability within the vision benefit manager industry while helping protect patients and independent eye care practices.

"Receiving this recognition from the Illinois Optometric Association is a tremendous honor," said State Senator Sue Rezin (R-Morris). "Throughout my time in the General Assembly, I have valued the expertise and dedication of Illinois' optometrists. Their commitment to improving patient care has helped shape thoughtful public policy, and I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure Illinoisans have access to high-quality vision care."

"Senator Rezin has been a trusted advocate for Illinois patients and the optometric profession," said IOA CEO Leigh Ann Vanausdoll. "Her leadership and support of

policies that promote patient choice, access to care, and transparency have made a meaningful difference for eye care providers and the communities they serve. We are honored to recognize her as our 2026 Legislator of the Year."

The Illinois Optometric Association presents its Legislator of the Year Award annually to a state lawmaker who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to advancing policies that improve access to quality eye care and support the practice of optometry throughout Illinois.

IOA MISSION: Protecting and advancing optometry for the benefit of public health.