

From: Aeverts77
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2004 4:29 PM
To: CONTACTLENSRULE
Subject: Support for New Contact Lens Law

Dear Sir or Madam:

As a contact lens wearer for over twenty years, I wish to voice my support for the new contact lens laws which provide, in part, that my eye doctor give me a copy of my contact lens prescription.

Generally, I do not support government regulations which are pursued by a particular industry to improve their financial well-being and protect their industry rather than to protect consumers. Such regulation is unnecessary, paternalistic, and costly to consumers. Why provide corporate welfare to a healthy industry?

On a personal level, I have experienced problems in the past when I wanted to have my prescription filled by my contact lens provider rather than my eye doctor's office. It seemed that, absent an incentive to provide me with a copy of my prescription, my eye doctor had no desire to do so or to work with my contact lens provider. My eye doctor failed to return the calls of my contact lens provider when my contact lens provider sought to confirm my prescription, absent my intervention. For the most part, my eye doctor seemed unavailable to take my contact provider's calls and would not return the calls even when my contact lens provider left repeated messages. Ultimately, I had to contact my doctor's office -- usually repeatedly -- to direct my eye doctor to contact my contact lens provider. Whether the provider was simply negligent or intentionally irresponsible is irrelevant -- I was inconvenienced by my eye doctor's inattention to my needs.

Furthermore, with the new law, I have the flexibility to seek the lowest price on contact lenses and am not manipulated into purchasing lenses from my provider at a higher price. While I am know my rights regarding my ability to purchase contact lenses from someone other than my eye doctor, many patients may not be as knowledgeable and could be manipulated into paying more for their lenses than they need to.

Lastly, eyeglass wearers already have the right to receive a copy of their prescription. Contact lens wearers should have the same rights. Preventing contact lens wearers from the same rights serves only greedy eye care doctors at the expense of contact lens wearers. There simply is no sound reason for contact lens wearers to be subject to greater scrutiny, apart from financial gain on the part of the doctors.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Alisa Porter

TX