

Hello,

I am writing to voice my strong support for the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act of 2003. As a long-time contact lens wearer I can tell you from personal experience that I have in the past run into difficulties obtaining a copy of my eye exam records from my ophthalmologist. In fact partially because of this difficulty I have not have my eyes examined in a number of years, because I have found an inexpensive source where I can purchase contact lenses within my budget and not have to worry about paying almost twice as much to a eye doctor who "requires" annual check-ups and then further "requires" that I purchase my contact lenses exclusively from them. You can see how effective their strong-armed approach has been, as haven't darkened their doors in years. Hardly an effective way to drum up business. It has in part caused me to not seek regular professional care for my eyes because of prohibitive costs and rules. I try to take good care of my eyes, and so far I have felt ok with this calculated risk to the future of my sight. But as I get older this is becoming an even larger issue with me and I am less willing to risk my healthy sight. But regardless, it is my choice how I take care of my eyes and from whom I seek eye care and purchase contact lenses, and I shouldn't be required by any to by anything from them "or else".

I am very happy the 2003 legislation passed. (A fact I was not aware of until today) I will most likely now seek out a competent ophthalmologist and resume regular eye care with them. It is my sincere hope that this legislation be carried forth through the years to come so as to not discourage others like myself from seeking regular eye care.

And my suggestion to the Ophthalmologists is if they want me to buy their contacts they have to at very least be competitive with the market. If they can't, then perhaps they should just stick to eye care and not the supply side for contact lens wearers.

Thanks for listening. Please let me know if there is any way I can further add my support to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Steve SeGraves

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