

From: Heather Eilers-Bowser
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2004 10:39 AM
To: CONTACTLENSRULE
Subject: Contact Lens Law

To Whom It May Concern:

I support the new Contact Lens Law. As a former congressional staffer, I had suggested that we enact such a law a couple years ago when I personally experienced what I consider a deprivation of my right to access or obtain my personal medical records.

About four years ago, I went to an optometrist in Washington, DC who also operated in Virginia. When I objected to the excessive charge for contact lenses after the exam, his staff informed me that if I would have gone to his Virginia office, the optometrist would have been required to give me my prescription. However, as I had gone to the Washington, DC office, he was not required to give me the prescription. In other words, I could not buy contacts elsewhere at a reasonable price. As I had just paid for the exam, my hands were tied.

Through this experience, it became apparent to me that optometrists would often charge more than three times the amount that wholesalers of contacts would charge for contact lenses. The system was anti-competitive and unfair to consumers.

Please ensure that the law is enforced in accordance with the intentions of Congress. Consumers should have the right to obtain prescriptions that they have paid for through exam costs.

Thank you,

Heather Eilers-Bowser