

Chairwoman Edith Ramirez
Federal Trade Commission
Office of the Secretary, Constitution Center
400 7th Street SW, 5th Floor, Suite 5610 (Annex C)
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Chairwoman Ramirez,

I am a practicing doctor of optometry. On a yearly basis, I provide care for many contact lens wearing patients and my primary ethical responsibility is to place my patients' interest above my own. I comply with the requirements of the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act (FCLCA) and the corresponding Contact Lens Rule by providing copies of contact lens prescriptions to patients at the end of the fitting process. I was disappointed to learn that the FTC will not seek to more-fully address unscrupulous business practices of online contact lens sellers that have been putting the health and safety of my patients at risk for more than a decade. I oppose the new FTC proposal to require that all contact lens wearing patients sign an acknowledgement of receipt of a contact lens prescription and that I keep this form on file for years. This requirement seems to suggest that I do not comply with the federal law and may communicate to my patients that I may be violating the law. This could cause them to be suspicious and distrust the doctor patient relationship that we made.

This new requirement would not only burden the physicians but also the staff. It would undoubtedly add new costs and necessitate ongoing staff training. It would also require that doctors maintain these signed forms for a number of years for possible review later. I am concerned that the FTC is underestimating the impact of this requirement. I respectfully request that the Commission look again at the costly impact of this burdensome proposal and, in doing so, give new and careful consideration to how it will harm tens of thousands of small and mid-sized eye care practices in communities across our country and serve as the basis for an utterly false and hostile presumption for my patients.

Sincerely,

Ashley Suplee, OD