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Chairperson 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 Chairperson Ramirez,

I am an optometric assistant at Riverdell Family Vision Care. Our office provides care for contact lens wearing patients. In accordance with the American Optometric Association's Standards of Professional Conduct, our primary ethical responsibility is to place patient's interest above our own.

I was disappointed to learn that the FTC will not, under its existing authority, seek to more-fully address the many unscrupulous business practices of online contact lens sellers that have been putting the health and safety of patients at risk for more than a decade. Expired contact lens prescriptions are regularly processed and filled by these online business. Requests for verification are made over the weekend or after hours. These online vendors also actively encouraging patients to re-order a stockpile of lenses just prior to the expiration date touting it as a way to avoid a visit to the optometrist to ensure a proper physiologic response to contact lens wear. I **oppose** the new FTC proposal to require that all contact lens wearing patients sign an acknowledgment of receipt of a contact lens prescription and that this form be kept on file for years. This requirement seems to be a heavy-handed step for the small business owner and does not hold these unscrupulous vendors accountable for patient health. The proposal would undoubtedly add new costs for both doctors and patients. It would require an additional step in the patient engagement process. It would require us to create and maintain a system of storage for these patient-signed forms. In the past, FTC has underestimated and subsequently corrected the estimated burden on physicians for complying with the Contact Lens Rule. I am concerned that the FTC is again underestimating the potential impact of these changes.

It would also disrupt the doctor-patient relationship by requiring patients to sign yet another form, placing a burden on patients' time and their ability to understand what they are signing. As a patient myself, I can relate to the frustration patients feel when seeking healthcare due to an increasing number of forms and consents placed in front of us to process and understand. Processes are burdensome to all involved, taking valuable time and resources without an improvement in the care being received. Healthcare provides are burning out from the constant barrage of rules and requirements when we want to be focusing on the patient experience and improving their health.

Accordingly, 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 while

unscrupulous online vendors continue to blatantly disregard patient eye health and vision safety for the sake of their bottom line profit.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely, 

Optometric Assistant 