

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 9, 2018

The Honorable Maureen K. Ohlhausen
Acting Chairwoman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Acting Chairwoman Ohlhausen,

As you know, the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act (FCLCA) became law in 2004 and tasked the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) with overseeing and enforcing the law's provisions.

The FCLCA requires that prescribers of contact lenses provide their patients with a copy of their contact lens prescription. I understand that in the course of the FTC's 10-year review of the regulations implementing the FCLCA, the Commission proposed to make changes that include a new paperwork mandate on all prescribers of contact lenses.

In particular, the late-2016 proposed rule would require that every practicing eye doctor, both optometrists and ophthalmologists, obtain a signed document from every patient to whom they prescribe contact lenses. However, in relation to the about 40 million Americans who wear contact lenses, there have been only 309 complaints received between the 2011-2016 period, and only half of these were in relation to the prescription release requirement. In addition, FTC estimates that this new mandate would cost the industry roughly \$10.5 million. It appears to me that the burden of this proposed rule outweighs in proportion the problem it seeks to address.

I urge FTC to reconsider this misguided rule due to the negative ramifications for the industry that will be associated with it.

Sincerely,



Sen. Rand Paul, M.D.
United States Senator