

South Carolina Society of Ophthalmology

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1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2000, 2001
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD
1998, 2001, 2009, 2010, 2013
STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM OF THE YEAR - 2003
AMERICAN ACADEMY STAR AWARD
2003, 2009, 2010, 2013

SPECIAL RECOGNITION
AWARD

19 98
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY

MODEL STATE
PATIENT ADVOCACY AWARD

1999, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009,
2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
The Eye M.D. Association

STATE AFFAIRS

Star Award 2003
& 2013

AMERICAN ACADEMY
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May 4, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Governor
State of South Carolina
South Carolina State House
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

HAND-DELIVERED

RE: S. 1016- Eye Care Consumer Protection Legislation

Dear Governor Haley:

First of all and on behalf of our physician membership and the thousands and thousands of patients we diligently and faithfully serve annually, please accept our sincerest appreciation for your outstanding leadership of our great state. You have displayed strength, charm and compassion as circumstances warranted during your terms and we are most grateful for your wonderful example.

Secondly, this letter is submitted today to express the agreement of the majority of the Leadership and Membership of the South Carolina Society of Ophthalmology ("SCSO") with the "pro-patient" content of S. 1016. This legislation was subjected to meticulous vetting by our Legal Counsel and Executive Committee which resulted in it being edited and indeed re-written numerous times *before* it was acceptable to our organization and could advance at the State House. The SCSO leadership sincerely believes the bill, as vetted and overwhelmingly passed, balances the latest technology advances in eye care while preserving the legal and clinical standards of care with our ophthalmic patients. More particularly, this legislation is limited only to prescriptions involving contact lenses and spectacles, and in doing so it preserves the use of "electronic medical" histories among other examination latitudes. Moreover, S. 1016 defines with only the minimums the necessary clinical protocols the provider must utilize to accomplish the eye exam including that it not be based "solely" on refractive data, which again preserves the prevailing legal and clinical standards of care for our patients.

Thank you so very much again for your outstanding leadership. Please accept my availability on behalf of the SCSO to answer any questions you or your Executive Staff may have on S.1016.

Most respectfully,


Edward G. Mintz, MD, PhD

CC: SCSO Executive Committee
Ronald C. Scott