

From:

To:

Date: 4/22/2016 1:45:05 PM

Subject:

S.1016, the Eye Care Consumer Protection Law

- This bill protects a profession at the expense of consumers, all without identifying any actual harm.
- This bill would prohibit kiosks or other phone-, computer-, or internet-based devices from providing a prescription for glasses or contact lenses, limiting the available choices of South Carolina consumers without any proof of a tangible public safety harm.
- Limiting consumer choice will only serve to increase costs and decrease efficiency in the eye-care market in a time when health care costs are already high.
- The technology used by kiosks and web-based portals could expand access to basic vision prescriptions in communities that may not otherwise have many options, including rural and impoverished areas in South Carolina.
- While a remote technology providing standard vision prescriptions may not be a substitute for a comprehensive eye health exam, consumers should have the choice to see an optometrist / ophthalmologist, not be legally forced there based on ancillary, unrelated, and speculative harms associated with a technology-based vision prescriptions.