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MASON FAMILY VISION

No. 8134 P. 1/2

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To: Governor Haley

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From: Dr. Katie Mason

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Dr. John L. Mason
Optometrist

Dr. Katie S. Mason
Optometrist



May 5, 2016

Dear Governor Haley,

Your endorsement of S. 1016, the "Eye Care Consumer Protection" bill would establish requirements for a person who sells spectacles or contact lenses using refractive data or information generated by an automated testing device. Currently, Optometrists and Ophthalmologists licensed in S.C. must take into consideration MEDICAL FINDINGS made and REFRACTIVE ERRORS discovered during an eye examination in order to provide a VALID prescription for spectacles or contact lenses.

Medical findings like DIABETES, GLAUCOMA, CATARACTS, ACCOMMODATIVE INSUFFICIENCIES, and OCULAR MUSCLE MISALIGNMENTS cannot be detected by refractive data generated by an automated refractive device. Unfortunately, refractive devices are being marketed directly to S.C. consumers as an online "EYE EXAM" which claims to be as accurate as an in-person refractive exam. The F.D.A. has never reviewed the safety or efficacy of these devices, or the promotional claims made for the devices in their labeling. These devices pose serious significant public health concerns including not only the possibility of misdiagnosis of the user's refractive correction needs, but also the foregoing of professional, state-licensed care that could identify serious ocular diseases that require treatment before eyesight and/or general health and wellbeing is permanently impaired or lost.

The overall impact on the citizens of S.C. could be:

- 1.) Lost jobs due to undiagnosed Diabetes Mellitus
- 2.) Inability to drive to work
- 3.) Inability to perform at peak levels because of loss of sight
- 4.) Increased sick days-more health visits
- 5.) Higher state/personal healthcare costs

Again, I urge you to vote in favor of S.1016.

Sincerely,


Katie Mason, O.D.
Mason Family Vision
Northeast Columbia