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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.

There is no substitute for an in-person, comprehensive eye exam that provides qualified and competent refractive measurements, as well as ensuring vision health by diagnosing systemic diseases at their earliest stages.

There is precedent set as both Georgia and Nebraska governors have signed their similar legislation into law.

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

- a) Lost jobs due to undiagnosed Diabetes Mellitus
  - 1.) Cannot drive to work
  - 2.) Cannot perform at peak levels because of loss of sight.
  - 3.) Increased sick days-more health visits
  - 4.) Higher state/personal healthcare costs

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

Mark Roemmich O.D.

