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Governor Haley,

The Eye Care Consumer Protection bill S.1016 is important. Something as important to us as our vision needs regulation and standards of care to be enforced to ensure that harm is not being done to the patient and the general public. Currently, as a practicing Optometrist for the past 12 years, we had to study for 8 years in college to earn a doctorate degree to have the right to give an eye exam. This eye exam that eye care professionals provide, gives our patients and the consumer the clear and comfortable vision that they desire and deserve. Our studies ensure that something that is as important as vision is being cared for and enhanced properly. Good vision all starts from the good health of an eyeball. Health must be checked to ensure clear vision. 8% of the population has Glaucoma, over 20% of people over 65 has Macular Degeneration. 10% of kids have lazy eye. The list goes on and on. A quick fix of having your vision clear for the time being by doing something as random and bizarre as on online eye exam, just puts these folks in harm, as sure they may get a quick fix for clear vision for the next 6 months or longer, but what they don't know, that is impossible to detect by doing an eye exam with a cell phone and a computer screen is the blinding eye disease that is lurking, about to take away their vision permanently for the rest of their life. That eye disease could have been stopped with a good old fashioned eye exam that has been the standard of care for over a hundred years. As part of a comprehensive eye exam, a glasses and/or contact lens fitting and prescription is released that is held up to strict standards, trusted fitting procedures, and measurements that are checked and double checked by both objective and subjective testing. We use the technology that these online providers and kiosks as entrance tests to learn about the eye in the form of objective measurements. We then use this data as a starting point to compare against the patients actual choices for their glasses and contact power by asking them what is clearer to them. You cannot simply give someone an entrance test result that is purely a measurement as a final result. It puts them in harms ways, as it will not be as accurate as the traditional exam that takes those measurements into account along with a double check of a subjective response and a third and most importance check of checking the health of the visual system to ensure that the vision will remain and stay stable into the future.

We've had to earn the right to do eye exams by studying for years to have the right to have a patients trust us with giving them the correct device to ensure clear and comfortable vision. We had to study the design, the correct way to custom fit contact lenses to ensure that we do not prescribe a lens that does harm to a patients eye. Now these companies want to jeopardize the patients and public health to make an easy buck. Sure they may have devised a way to do a quick fix to clear vision, but they do not have the patient and public's health and wellbeing in mind when they are trying to provide a quick fix to earn a buck. Please do not let healthcare become just that. Your vote to help save Optometry and the publics vision is a huge matter. Please stand up for standards of care that are trusted. Do what is right please!

Thanks

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