



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF VISION CARE PLANS

April 11, 2018

Representative Tom Brinkman  
Chair, House Insurance Committee  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: National Association of Vision Plans Position on House Bill 156

Dear Chairman Brinkman and Members of the Committee:

The National Association of Vision Care Plans (NAVCP) is pleased to support the newly drafted substitute (- 5 version) of H.B. 156. Having worked with Representative Schuring, Vice Chair Henne, and the Ohio Optometric Association, NAVCP members now believe that H.B. 156 contains the necessary consumer protections for us to support the bill's passage.

### **Consumer Access to Discounts for Uncovered Additional Eyewear and Optional Treatments**

One of our concerns with the original bill was that it would not allow optometrists to work with vision plans to offer discounts on uncovered items such as lens add-ons (like tinting and anti-reflective coating) as well as on second pairs of frames and lenses. Studies have shown that this would have increased out of pocket costs 60% on consumers and, furthermore, would not have allowed plans to communicate what pricing consumers could expect when going to their in-network optometrist.

In the new substitute language, optometrists will be allowed to choose to participate in discount programs and plans will be allowed to fully communicate this information to consumers. This will benefit vision care providers who want direction of consumers to their practices when those consumers have already used their covered benefits. Further, this legislation requires vision care provider disclosures so that consumers will know what supplies and services are in-network and how much other options will cost.

### **Access to In-Network Supplies and Laboratories**

Another major NAVCP concern was continued access for Ohio consumers to lower cost, in-network, supplies and laboratories. Consumers can always shop for eye wear where they would like. Our challenge as vision care plans is to make sure that our enrollees have access to affordable eye wear so that they can use their benefits with in-network optometrists. H.B. 156 now allows us to assure that in-network sources will be available to consumers through contractual provisions and statutory guarantees in the new language.

## Conclusion

NAVCP greatly appreciates the deliberate and serious discussion this legislation has had in this committee. We believe that H.B. 156 now benefits consumers and vision care providers alike while allowing our member plans the flexibility to present a wide range of affordable and robust options for eye wear and vision care services to Ohio employers and consumers. Again, we are pleased to support the newly drafted substitute (- 5 version) of H.B. 156.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Roberts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "R".

Julian Roberts  
Executive Director  
National Association of Vision Care Plans  
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