

House Bill 116
Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate
House Ways and Means Committee

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers and members of the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 116. My name is Sherry Williams and I am here on behalf of the Ohio Affiliate of Prevent Blindness.

As President & CEO of Prevent Blindness, I represent an organization that serves as the voice for Ohio consumers when it comes to eye health and safety. Prevent Blindness is a voluntary, charitable public health organization with offices in 5 locations statewide and over 8,000 donors and volunteers located in every county that serve nearly 1 million Ohioans of all ages each year.

Prevent Blindness urges your support of House Bill 116, which removes sales tax as an economic barrier for Ohioans to obtain corrective eyewear. Forty-two states currently exempt prescription eyewear from sales tax in recognition of the importance of this sight saving measure for the citizens of their states and the positive impact it has on education, public health and safety.

When individuals in need of vision correction have reduced economic barriers to accessing the proper prescription eyewear:

- Our children have a better chance at achieving academic success – kids need to see to learn.
- Seniors are less likely to fall and suffer injuries – 25% of their falls are due to poor/uncorrected vision.
- Good vision is good business! Workers are more productive when they can see clearly and less likely to suffer from eyestrain which can lead to stress-related absenteeism.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Mission: To Prevent Blindness and Preserve Sight

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Please remember Prevent Blindness Ohio in your will.