



House Bill 116  
Jason Singh, OD  
Luxottica Retail North America  
Written Proponent Testimony  
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Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 116. My name is Dr. Jason Singh and I am the Vice President of Vision Care for Luxottica Retail North America Inc. We operate 118 retail optical stores here in Ohio under the LensCrafters, Pearle Vision, Sears Optical and Target Optical brands. We employ more than 3200 Ohioans, including 400 Ohio licensed dispensing and apprentice opticians. Luxottica's North American retail offices in Mason, Ohio coordinate over 4,500 stores across the United States. In addition, we support OneSight, a public charity founded in Cincinnati. OneSight's vision is to eradicate the global vision care crisis for the 1.1 Billion people around the world who need vision correction and lack the access to it. We accomplish this by mobilizing eye care professionals, industry experts, and volunteers in the U.S. and around the world. In 28 years, we have given the gift of sight to over 9 million people.

On behalf of Luxottica Retail and the patients we serve, I urge your support of House Bill 116. HB 116 is an important bill that will make immediate impact for Ohio residents. Statistics show that as many as 75 percent of Ohio residents require vision correction. Economic barriers, like the sales tax, make it less likely for patients to obtain the care and medical products they need to realize their full potential.

There are several key points to understand, related to the impact of a pair of glasses. First, children who see better, learn better. Studies show 80% of learning is visual and recent global studies show children with clear vision learn twice as much as compared to children who cannot see clearly. Second, global impact studies show adults who see clearly produce 35% more at work, increasing their earning potential by 20%. How can we expect Ohio residents to be their best if they cannot see clearly? This question is especially important for low-income Ohioans for whom the sales tax on prescriptive eyewear is a regressive tax.

House Bill 116 will help recognize the importance of optical aids for Ohio residents by treating the purchase of these essential items similar to other medical devices. Optical aids are one of the few remaining medical devices still subject to Ohio's sales tax and they are the only taxed medical devices available for purchase in a retail setting. The limited exemption, as proposed in HB 116, will make it more likely that Ohio residents can obtain these essential medical items.

The application of sales tax on prescriptive eyewear makes Ohio inconsistent with the vast majority of other states. 42 states currently exempt prescriptive eyewear from sales tax. HB 116 will make Ohio more competitive in the marketplace for prescriptive eyewear and help Ohio's economy by leveling the playing field for large and small optical dispensaries throughout Ohio, when compared to counterparts in other states.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 116. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [jsingh@luxotticaretail.com](mailto:jsingh@luxotticaretail.com) or 513-765-6155 should you have questions or require additional information. Thank you for your consideration.