



**OPPOSE**

**HB2450**

## **CONSUMER FRAUD CONTACT LENS AMENDMENT**

**Fact:** Existing law dating back at least 25 years protects patients by prohibiting the dispensing of contact lenses by anyone other than a licensed optometrist, pharmacist or physician or someone under their direct supervision. This was further clarified in 2013 by the General Assembly to insure that adults and especially children were not being sold lenses that either damaged their eyes or did not meet FDA standards. Out of state mail order companies are required to agree to follow Illinois law and must register with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

**THE BILL:** Overrides protections currently in law and allows the dispensing of contact lenses at any location by unlicensed and unregulated individuals. The result will be a marked increase in eye infections, ulcers, and abrasions with the possibility of partial or total blindness as lenses are sold in unconventional locations such as gas stations and beauty supply stores.

**Fact:** Contact lens manufacturers began a year ago developing a minimum retail pricing policy to eliminate confusion in the market place. The goal of minimum retail pricing is to eliminate the patient's evaluation of the myriad of discount coupons and rebates, allowing the doctor and patient to focus on eye health. Minimum retail pricing eliminates the countless hours of staff and doctor time spent trying to explain these rebate programs. In fact in an overwhelming number of cases, retail prices have gone down as a result of uniform pricing policies with only 4% of the market having raised their prices. The program levels the playing field between large and small providers.

**THE BILL:** Complicates the market again and gives a competitive advantage to large out of state mail order operations over the small individual doctors in Illinois.

**Fact:** The bill impacts multiple states and is an inter-state commerce issue.

**THE BILL:** Should be addressed at the federal level, although it has been rejected in the past by Congress as it should be now in Illinois.

**Opponents:** Illinois Optometric Association  
Illinois Eye Institute  
Johnson and Johnson  
Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (Ophthalmology)

Illinois State Medical Society  
Illinois Manufacturers Association  
Alcon / Novartis

**VOTE NO ON HB2450**