

# Your contact lens rights are being threatened

(and what you can do about it).

## Your optometrist must give you your prescription...

In 2003, Congress recognized consumers need access to their prescription and passed **a federal law requiring optometrists to proactively provide every patient with a copy of their prescription** so you have the freedom to buy contacts wherever you choose.



## ...but many optometrists don't.



17 years later, independent studies show that up to **50% of optometrists still refuse to comply with the law** and don't release prescriptions to their patients. Why? They make more money when they limit your choices and push you to purchase from them.

## The FTC has your back.

To attempt to get optometrists to follow the law, the bipartisan Federal Trade Commission unanimously voted to update the Contact Lens Rule to require eye doctors to get your signature, **confirming you received your prescription.**



## Special interest groups want to limit your choice.



Optometrists don't like this (actually, they hate it), so they've joined forces with special interest groups in lobbying against the change to the Contact Lens Rule **so they can continue limiting your choice (and overcharging you)** by withholding your prescription.

## Optometrists claim your rights are a burden.

Eye doctors argue that collecting your signature requires too much effort, cost, and paperwork. It's odd how **they're happy to have you sign piles of documents that protect them** (ever notice the arbitration agreement they slipped into that stack of paperwork?) but claim it's an expensive burden when the document protects your rights.



## How optometrists really make their money:

- Up to **50% of optometrists' income** doesn't come from providing a medical service but **from sales of contacts and glasses.**
- Optometrists sell what they prescribe, which is a conflict of interest.
- **Optometrists are financially incentivized** to sell certain contact lens brands, by using rebates or other similar programs that reward them for prescribing one product over another.
- Think about it this way – ever wonder **why your optometrist only gave you one option** for contact lenses instead of presenting a range of choices? Probably because of an incentive program.

The result? **Your optometrist has a vested financial interest in finding ways to limit your choice** so you will only buy from them. It's why they form special interest groups and spend millions lobbying to reduce your choices for buying contacts.

## Special interest groups and optometrists are threatening your rights.

Optical industry special interest groups and optometrists are lobbying to stop the FTC's changes to the Contact Lens Rule that give you more choice, more control, and better prices. But together we can protect your rights and create an open, competitive, consumer-focused contact lens market. [Learn more by reading the FTC's unanimous ruling.](#)