The Honorable Chris Cannon  
United States House of Representatives  
118 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative Cannon:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

The demand for replacement soft contact lenses has grown rapidly in the last ten years because of their comfort, ease of use, and convenience. Yet, sales of the lenses through the outlets that generally provide the most value for consumers, such as large volume discounters, has not reached its true potential. Unfortunately, the market is constrained to an unacceptable degree today by eye care practitioners who capture their patients' purchases by withholding the prescriptions patients need to shop elsewhere.

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March 18, 2002

The Honorable Bob Filner
United States House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative Filner:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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March 18, 2002

The Honorable Bart Gordon
United States House of Representatives
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative Gordon:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative Keller:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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March 18, 2002

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
United States House of Representatives
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative Lowey:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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March 18, 2002

The Honorable James P. McGovern
United States House of Representatives
430 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative McGovern:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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March 18, 2002

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
United States House of Representatives
2160 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative Ros-Lehtinen:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner Jr.
United States House of Representatives
2332 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative Sensenbrenner:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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March 18, 2002

Dear Representative Waxman:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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March 15, 2002

The Honorable Bob Clement  
United States House of Representatives  
2229 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative Clement:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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March 15, 2002

The Honorable Harold Ford Jr.
United States House of Representatives
325 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative Ford:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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March 15, 2002

The Honorable James V. Hansen  
United States House of Representatives  
242 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative Hansen:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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March 18, 2002

The Honorable Tom Lantos
United States House of Representatives
2217 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative Lantos:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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The Honorable Jim Matheson
United States House of Representatives
410 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative Matheson:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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March 18, 2002

Dear Representative Rivers:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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March 18, 2002

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
United States House of Representatives
2435 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative Roybal-Allard:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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March 18, 2002

The Honorable Jose E. Serrano
United States House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative Serrano:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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In Re: H.R. 2663, the Contact Lens Prescription Release Act of 2001

Dear Representative Wynn:

We, the undersigned State Attorneys General, write this letter to express our support for federal legislation mandating the release of contact lens prescriptions. H.R. 2663 requires that eye care practitioners provide consumers with their contact lens prescriptions. As such, it is strong pro-consumer, pro-competition legislation that will spur more sales, enhance consumer choice, generate lower prices and better value, and result in more frequent replacement and safer use of contact lenses.

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Recently, thirty-two State Attorneys General settled antitrust litigation with the major manufacturers of contact lenses and the American Optometric Association over this very issue. Evidence uncovered during the course of the litigation demonstrated that there is a large market for the replacement lenses, that many eye care practitioners make it difficult or impossible for patients to obtain their prescriptions, and that the availability of replacement lenses through alternative channels of distribution has been significantly impaired.

Pursuant to the settlement, the American Optometric Association agreed not to oppose the release of prescriptions, and the manufacturers agreed to sell to retailers, like mail order and pharmacies, on a non-discriminatory basis. Yet neither the manufacturers nor the Association can insure that every member of the eye care profession permits consumer choice. Congress has that power and can accomplish that beneficial result. The winding up of the Contact Lens litigation is a perfect time to pass federal legislation that would mandate the release of contact lens prescriptions.

Accompanying this letter is a background statement that fully details the reasons why a rule mandating release would promote consumer welfare and the public interest.

We applaud your willingness to sponsor and promote this valuable legislation and stand willing to lend our assistance in any way that we can.

Very truly yours,

Attorney General Hardy Myers
Attorney General of Oregon

Attorney General Tom Miller
Attorney General of Iowa

Attorney General J. Joseph Curran, Jr.
Attorney General of Maryland

Attorney General Eliot Spitzer
Attorney General of New York

Attorney General Bill Pryor
Attorney General of Alabama

Attorney General Bruce M. Botelho
Attorney General of Alaska
Attorney General Janet Napolitano  
Attorney General of Arizona

Attorney General Ken Salazar  
Attorney General of Colorado

Attorney General M. Jane Brady  
Attorney General of Delaware

Attorney General Robert A. Butterworth  
Attorney General of Florida

Attorney General Carla J. Stovall  
Attorney General of Kansas

Attorney General Richard Ieyoub  
Attorney General of Louisiana

Attorney General Tom Reilly  
Attorney General of Massachusetts

Attorney General Bill Lockyer  
Attorney General of California

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal  
Attorney General of Connecticut

Corporation Counsel Robert Rigsby  
Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia

Stephen H. LeVins, Acting Executive Director  
State of Hawaii, Office of Consumer Protection

Attorney General Albert Benjamin Chandler III  
Attorney General of Kentucky

Attorney General G. Steven Rowe  
Attorney General of Maine

Attorney General Mike Hatch  
Attorney General of Minnesota

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Attorney General Mike Moore
Attorney General of Mississippi

Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa
Attorney General of Nevada

Attorney General Roy Cooper
Attorney General of North Carolina

Attorney General Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney General of the Northern Mariana Islands

Attorney General Anabelle Rodriguez
Attorney General of Puerto Rico

Attorney General Charlie Condon
Attorney General of South Carolina

Attorney General William H. Sorrell
Attorney General of Vermont

Attorney General Jeremiah W. Nixon
Attorney General of Missouri

Attorney General Philip T. McLaughlin
Attorney General of New Hampshire

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General of North Dakota

Attorney General Betty Montgomery
Attorney General of Ohio

Attorney General Sheldon Whitehouse
Attorney General of Rhode Island

Attorney General Mark Shurtleff
Attorney General of Utah

Attorney General Jerry Kilgore
Attorney General of Virginia
Iver A. Stridiron
Attorney General of the Virgin Islands

Attorney General of West Virginia

Hoke MacMillan
Attorney General of Wyoming

Christine Gregoire
Attorney General of Washington

James E. Doyle
Attorney General of Wisconsin