



VIA FACSIMILE

November 6, 2003

The Honorable Robert F. Bennett
United States Senate
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FEDERAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Dear Senator Bennett,

After consultations with your staff, the Academy would like to clarify our position regarding contact lens prescription release legislation currently pending in the Congress. To reiterate, we are opposed to Section 625 of the Senate Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations bill, S. 1585, as the language ignores the public health aspects of this issue and has not been the subject of any committee debate or consideration.

HR 3140, on the other hand, is the result of over 18 months of negotiation and refinement. Should you or one of your colleagues elect to introduce a verbatim Senate companion to HR 3140, the Academy would not oppose such legislation. We hope this clarifies our position.

Sincerely,

Catherine G. Cohen
Vicepresident of Government Affairs