



OHIO  
OPTOMETRIC  
ASSOCIATION



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OF VISION  
CARE PLANS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Ohio Optometric Association and National Association of Vision Care Plans Applaud Governor Kasich for Signing “Consensus-driven” Vision Health Legislation**

*Law is win-win-win for Ohio consumers, eye care professionals and vision care plans*

**Worthington, OH, December 20, 2018** – The Ohio Optometric Association (OOA) and National Association of Vision Care Plans (NAVCP) today jointly commended Ohio Governor John Kasich for signing HB 156, legislation that will significantly improve consumer protections, while supporting flexibilities for both providers and the vision plans providing care in the state.

"House Bill 156 is patient-centered legislation that will provide consumers with an enhanced ability to make informed choices about their vision care," said Keith Kerns, executive director of the Ohio Optometric Association. "This law will enable consumers to use the suppliers of their choice, preserve a robust marketplace for services and provide more choice between plans."

"Vision care is essential for maintaining overall health," said Julian Roberts, NAVCP executive director. "We applaud Governor Kasich, Rep. Schuring, the primary sponsor of the bill, and the Ohio Legislature for making it easier for patients to enjoy choice while maintaining affordable access to the vision care services and supplies they need."

OOA and NAVCP worked for several months with legislators to help craft the “consensus-driven” legislation. The organizations said the resulting bill is truly reflective of what can be achieved through good-faith negotiation and mutual cooperation.

"We believe this legislation will help consumers continue to make the best choices for their families," Lukas Ruecker, president of Mason-based EyeMed Vision Care. "It can serve as a model for consumer vision care protections in all states."

**About the Ohio Optometric Association**

The Ohio Optometric Association (OOA) is the professional association for Ohio's Doctors of Optometry. The OOA represents approximately 70 percent of optometrists practicing in the state.

**About NAVCP**

NAVCP is a nonprofit association serving as a unified voice for the managed vision care industry. The association provides a forum for cooperative industry collaboration on initiatives that work to preserve and strengthen consumer access to affordable vision insurance and benefits. NAVCP member companies operate extensive networks of vision care providers in all 50 states. Those networks cover approximately 170 Million (53 percent) Americans.