



Bob Hackett

State Senator
10th District

Committees

Insurance and Financial Institutions – Chair
Agriculture
Health, Human Services and Medicaid
Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs
Ways and Means
Finance – Health and Medicaid Subcommittee - Chair

Ohio Senate

Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-3780

Memorandum

From the Office of Senator Bob Hackett

Date: December 5th, 2019

To: Chair: Assemblywoman Pamela Hunter

From: Senator Bob Hackett, 10th Senate District

RE: Vision Care Services Draft Model Act

I would like to present the Draft Model Act Regarding Vision Care Services that you have in your materials for consideration by the Committee as potential model legislation. This legislation is similar to legislation the NCOIL passed as a model in 2010, banning fee schedules for uncovered dental services. But as we discovered in Ohio, taking a model for one market of insurance and applying it to another can be difficult. While addressing uncovered services was simple, when it came to the issue of providing a retail item, lenses and frames, things became complex.

In our 2018 session we successfully enacted HB 156, addressing this issue for vision plans, after working on this issue for four years. After dozens of committee meetings over several sessions we reached consensus and were able to address fundamental issues of consumer protection while granting flexibility to providers to set pricing on eyewear.

This legislation would allow vision care providers, both optometrists and ophthalmologists, to join a vision plan network without agreeing to pricing on eyewear options that are not covered. It would also make sure that patients can be kept informed of what pricing they can expect from their network provider, both prior to the office visit and at the point of service.

I believe that this issue, and its complexity, recommends it for consideration at NCOIL. This issue was addressed for the Dental market in 2010 and has been adopted in over 30 states, but it

application to the vision insurance market has details that would benefit from a full discussion at NCOIL.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Hackett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "B" and "H".

Senator Bob Hackett
10th District