



Representative Lindsey Holmes

Sponsor Statement

HB 125 – Prescription Topical Eye Medication Refills

House Bill 125 will allow patients to receive a limited refill of prescription eye drops if an individual runs out of medication before the prescribed refill date. Currently, insurance plans restrict patients from refilling medications earlier than the typical single month or 90 day refill date. Many eye diseases require daily treatment, without which the disease can worsen.

Patients who suffer from degenerative eye diseases, such as glaucoma, rely on prescription eye drops for relief and to maintain proper vision. In most instances, these medications require daily application. However, many patients run out of their drops before they are eligible for a refill. A typical insurance provider will pay for a standardized one month or three month supply of medication.

There are a few reasons a patient's eye drops might run out early. First, eye drop dispensers are not standardized with respect to the amount of liquid dispensed in a drop. Second, the amount of medication in a bottle may not be sufficient to cover the prescribed time period. Finally, visually impaired patients or patients with unsteady hands may have to make multiple attempts to administer the drops on the eye. This factor is most common among the elderly, who are disproportionately affected by degenerative eye diseases. Patients could pay for refills out of pocket, but these medications can be costly, especially for those already living on fixed incomes. Without access to partial refills of prescription eye drops, patients risk further loss of sight.

Please join me in supporting this legislation to provide protection for those who rely on prescription eye drops for the preservation of sight.