

program. Therefore, those services performed by independently practicing optometrists which are not included within the coverage provisions of the law or which are contained in the statutory exclusions are not reimbursable as covered expenses under the medical insurance program. Thus, optometrists' services performed in connection with prescribing, fitting, or changing eyeglasses are excluded from coverage. However, optometrists' services performed in connection with furnishing prosthetic lenses prescribed for the beneficiary by a physician are covered as are the prosthetic lenses themselves. (While eyeglasses are specifically excluded from coverage, a separate provision of the law covers prosthetic devices—other than dental—which replace all or part of an internal body organ. Thus, "eyeglasses" which replace an internal body organ (the lens of the eye), as for example after cataract surgery, are covered as prosthetic lenses.)

ROBERT M. BALL,
Commissioner of Social Security.

Mr. SISK. We have to answer an automatic roll call.

Mr. McLeod, I understand that you have a witness who was desirous of leaving town tonight or in the morning.

Mr. McLEOD. He has to be in New York Thursday.

Mr. SISK. Could he be here Friday?

Mr. McLEOD. Yes, sir.

Mr. SISK. We will answer the roll call and come back and continue the hearing. This committee will take a temporary recess.

(Recess taken.)

AFTER RECESS

Mr. SISK. The committee will resume its hearing.

Just prior to our recessing, the Medical Society had completed its testimony. Mr. McLeod indicated that he has a man who needs to return to New York so at this time we will hear the witness of Sterling Optical Company.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM N. McLEOD, REPRESENTING STERLING OPTICAL COMPANY, KAY JEWELRY STORES IN WASHINGTON, KINSMAN OPTICAL COMPANY AND VENT-AIR CONTACT LENS SPECIALISTS

Mr. McLEOD. I am representing Sterling Optical Company, Kinsman Optical Company and Kay Jewelry Stores here in Washington, and Vent-Air Contact Lens Specialists. I have been working with Alvin M. Stein, General Counsel with Sterling Optical Company of New York. Mr. Stein will make the statement. I will let his statement stand for other people I represent, if that is satisfactory with you.

Mr. SISK. Without objection their statements will be made a part of the record.

(The statements referred to follow:)

STATEMENT OF ALVIN M. STEIN, GENERAL COUNSEL, STERLING OPTICAL COMPANY

Mr. STEIN. My name is Alvin M. Stein, a member of the firm of Parker, Chapman and Flattau on 53rd and Fifth Avenue, New York, New York; New York attorneys, General Counsel to Sterling Optical Company, and I appear in opposition to the bill.

I have submitted to the committee a full statement, together with exhibits annexed, which opposes the bill in toto, and also a statement