

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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February 13, 2026

The Honorable Andrew Ferguson
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20580

Dear Chairman Ferguson:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is continuing its oversight of the impacts of consolidation within the vision care market and its harm to the U.S consumer. Increasing concentration among vision insurance administrators threatens competition and is driving higher costs and fewer choices for patients. Accordingly, we request a staff-level briefing on the Federal Trade Commission's ongoing efforts to monitor, investigate, and prevent anticompetitive consolidation in the vision care market that may harm patients and consumers.

Recent reporting shows that the vision care market is concentrated highly, with one or two vision benefit manager companies dominating the market in most states.¹ Nationwide, just two companies control approximately 85 percent of the market for stand-alone vision insurance plans.² In 40 states, a single company, VSP Vision Care (VSP) controls at least a plurality of the market, and in 25 states, it fills more than 75 percent.³ Notably, these levels of concentration have decreased only marginally since the Committee launched its investigation in 2023.⁴

The consolidation in the vision care market is enabling Vision Benefit Managers (VBMs) to exercise excessive market power at the expense of patients and plan sponsors. VBMs have vertically integrated to own, operate, or maintain exclusive affiliations with eyeglass and lens manufacturers, optical laboratories, and retail providers, giving them substantial control over the vision care supply chain.⁵ One of the leading concerns of the VBMs vertical integration is the use of market control to offer preferential copayments that steer patients toward VBM-owned retail locations while simultaneously imposing higher rates and less favorable terms on plan sponsors and competing providers.⁶

¹ *AOA exposes and challenges VBM lobby group's latest attacks on optometry*, AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION (Sept. 17, 2025) & *Enough is Enough*, AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION (July 29, 2025)

² Cate Deventer, *What Are the Largest Vision Insurance Companies?*, VALUEPENGUIN (Updated Sep. 18, 2025).

³ *Id.*

⁴ See Letter from James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, to Attorney General Merrick Garland (Nov. 18, 2024); Letter from James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, to Federal Trade Commission, Chair Lina Khan (August. 8, 2023).

⁵ *Supra* note 1.

⁶ David Lazarus, *Column: Vision insurers have rigged the market to get you to buy their glasses*, LOS ANGELES TIMES, (Mar. 19, 2019).

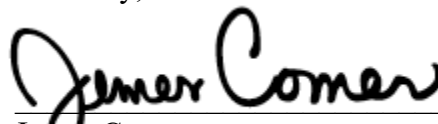
Additionally, recent actions by VSP suggests a continued and accelerating effort toward consolidation.⁷ In March 2025, VSP announced its intent to acquire Marcolin, described as “a global leader in eyewear design, manufacturing, and distribution.”⁸ VSP already provides vision insurance to more than 85 million Americans nationwide, and this acquisition would further leverage its dominance in insurance to other markets.⁹

Such continued consolidation of the vision care market by VBM mimics similar anticompetitive patterns identified by the Committee in its investigation of Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs).¹⁰ That investigation found that PBMs leveraged their intermediary role and vertical integration to steer patients toward affiliated entities, eliminate competition, increase patient costs, and exploit market cloudiness to avoid oversight.¹¹ Similar practices may be occurring within the VBM industry to the detriment of patients.

To help the Committee understand the impacts on consumers of consolidation and vertical integration among vision insurance plans, please make arrangements to schedule a briefing with Committee staff on this matter as soon as possible, but no later than February 20, 2026.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate, “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. To schedule the briefing or to ask any related follow-up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Majority staff at 202-225-5074.

Sincerely,


James Comer
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Robert Garcia, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

⁷ See *VSP Ventures Acquires Three New Practices*, VISION MONDAY (March. 31, 2025); *VSP Vision Completes the Acquisition of Eyemart Express*, VISION MONDAY (Jan. 23, 2025); *VSP Ventures Acquires 13 New Practices in First Half of 2024*, VISION MONDAY (August. 29, 2024); & *VSP Vision Enters into Definitive Agreement to Acquire Eyemart Express*, VISION MONDAY (Oct. 9, 2024).

⁸ *VSP Vision Enters into Definitive Agreement to Acquire Marcolin from PAI Partners and Other Minority Shareholders*, VSP Vision (Sept. 5, 2025).

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *The Role of Pharmacy Benefit Managers in Prescription Drug Markets*, H. Comm. On Oversight and Accountability, (Jul. 23, 2024).

¹¹ *Id.*