

# AOA AND AFFILIATE ACTIONS TO FIGHT BACK AND STAND UP FOR FULL REIMBURSEMENT AND FAIR COVERAGE POLICIES

## 1. Holding the National Association of Vision Care Plans (NAVCP) accountable

Together with affiliates, the AOA has challenged and successfully blocked 2023 efforts by vision plans' lobbying group, NAVCP, to gain backing from the National Council of Insurance Legislators and other organizations that shape state health care policy.

## 2. Direct action to resolve doctor complaints

[Some plans seek to devalue eye health and vision care.](#) The AOA takes on these unfair plan policies, denials and concerns—many reported by AOA member doctors—to get answers, then provides [daily updates to members on these actions.](#)

## 3. Direct dialogue with plan CEOs

[AOA leadership maintains periodic, face-to-face dialogues with leading vision plans](#) to educate plans regarding the impact of their practices on doctors of optometry, the scope of care provided by optometrists in 2023 and the costs associated with providing that care, including the increase in practice costs due to COVID-19 or inflation.

**Most recent meetings include:** January (Charleston, S.C.) and March 2023 (New York City). Next meeting scheduled for February 2024.

## 4. Updating state laws

[Texas, Nevada, Georgia and Illinois](#) all enacted important state vision plan laws this year with more affiliates looking to their statehouse advocacy for solutions.

## 5. Federal regulatory crackdown and bipartisan legislation to deliver relief to doctors

[Bipartisan legislation](#) backed by the AOA and the American Dental Association (ADA), [the Dental and Optometric Care \(DOC\) Access Act, H.R. 1385/S. 1424, remains a priority](#) to curb plan abuses at a federal level. Amid efforts to advance the legislation, the congressional panel

authorized to investigate “any matter at any time”—the [U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Accountability—went public this summer with vision plan concerns and issued a request for information to the Federal Trade Commission to conduct oversight](#) of the agency's role in preventing unfair and harmful marketplace practices, especially considering consolidation in the vision insurance market.

## 6. Alliances with doctor and patient organizations

In addition to the ADA, the AOA allied with the [Patients Rising advocacy organization](#) to help bolster calls for Congress to cease increasingly harmful vision benefits manager abuses.

a. [Congress can stand up to predatory vision insurers | RealClearHealth](#)

b. [Congress steps up to address potential abuses in vision and dental care | The Hill](#)

c. [Legislative solutions to overpriced eyeglasses | Washington Times](#)

## 7. Anti-trust legal review and assessment

The AOA Board of Trustees and AOA's in-house legal team is consulting with [Mayer Brown](#), a national law firm, in the 24/7/365 fight against plan abuses. We are identifying and assessing potential and future issues, opportunities to advance new strategies and reviewing all potential anti-trust activities to determine the optimal next steps to help ensure practice success for AOA member doctors.

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If you are interested in taking part in a special briefing on this area of work or in getting more involved, please contact [stopplanabuses@aoa.org](mailto:stopplanabuses@aoa.org).