

October 27,2000

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Honorable Donna Shalala
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Honorable Donna Shalala,

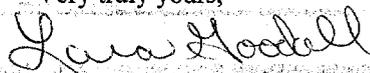
As a receptionist/employee in hearing health for the past 6-½ years, I write with respect to Hearing aids. As the AARP has confirmed, hearing aids are highly effective but dramatically underutilized Medical devices. I am very concerned with reports that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has reportedly sent to you a proposal for revising the current regulations governing the dispensing of hearing aids in this country that would dramatically increase the cost of hearing health care services and restrict access to hearing health care providers. Please stop and carefully consider the impact that this proposed rule will have the nation's hearing impaired and on the nation's small business hearing aid specialists. In particular, please ensure that any proposed rule meets the obligations of Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

Hearing impairment is a major health care concern. Please don't let the FDA put forth their proposed rule that would impede access to needed hearing health care services for millions of Americans, not to mention the numbers of people whom would now become unemployed. As mentioned above I have been with this business for the past 6 ½ years and have seen the difference we have made in peoples lives to better help them hear. Speaking to our customers on a daily basis I hear the stories from family members telling me what a difference we have made in there loved ones lives if only for a short time in some cases.

On a personal note this will greatly affect my life if we are put out of business. I am a young and single expecting mother and will not turn to the system for help, I have dedicated 6 years of my life to this business and would have to start from the bottom /up all over again, this would not meet my financial needs.

Please hear our request! This will affect more lives than you realize.

Very truly yours,


Lara Goodall

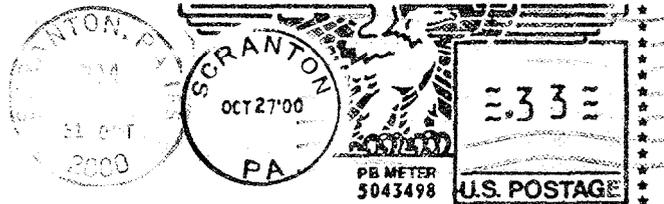
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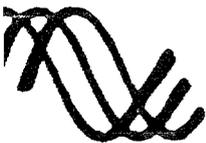
sion Hearing Instruments, Inc.

7. LACKAWANNA AVENUE

NTON, PA 18504



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Washington, D.C. 20201



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