October 27, 2000

4147 '00 NOV 16 P3:07

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

Dear Secretary Shalala,

As a office manager/ employee in hearing health for 16 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 on 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.

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. I have worked in this field for over 16 years and have seen many senior citizens hear again. Hearing impairment is a major health care concern,

Very truly yours

Sharon Stanvitch

Administrative Assistant

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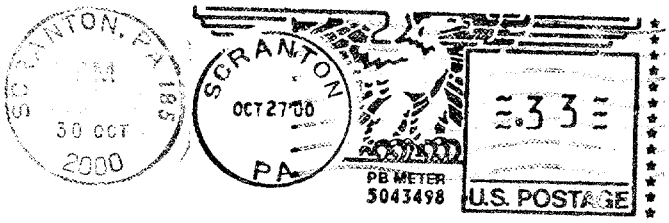
sion Hearing Instruments, Inc.
LACKAWANNA AVENUE
TON, PA 18504



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

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