

4143 00 NOV 16 P3:07

Honorable Donna Shalala  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Room 615F  
Washington, D.C. 20201

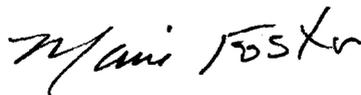
Dear Secretary Shalala:

As a small business owner and hearing health care provider, 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 the 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.

Very truly yours,



Marie Foster, ACA  
Audioprosthologist

**Precision Hearing Aid Center**  
3179 Solano Avenue  
Napa, CA 94558  
(707) 255-6383

93N 0372

C4952