

Desert Hearing Care

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Changing lives for the better!

Gene K. Erickson

SECOND-GENERATION
HEARING CARE
PROFESSIONAL

Co-owner: Desert Hearing Care Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences; Co-author: "Have You Heard?" hearing care column, Arizona Republic Member: International Hearing Society, Arizona Hearing Aid Society Education: University of Colorado, Concordia College Thousands of hours of specialized training; Extensive community involvement—seminar speaker

October 30, 2000

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

Connie B. Erickson

SECOND-GENERATION
HEARING CARE
PROFESSIONAL

Co-owner: Desert Hearing Care, Arizona Licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist; Daughter of practice founder Robert Wall, Sr., Board Certified, Hearing Instrument Sciences. Member: International Hearing Society, Arizona Hearing Aid Society, Thousands of hours of specialized training

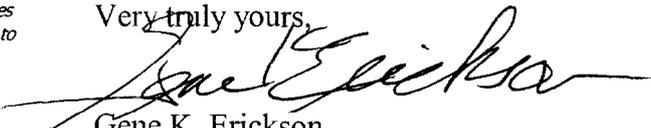
Dear Secretary Shalala:

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,


Gene K. Erickson
Board Certified Hearing Instrument Specialist

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