

23 AMHERST ROAD  
PORT WASHINGTON, N. Y. 11050

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March 16, 2000

Ms. Jane Henny, M.D., Commissioner  
Food & Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: Restrictions on Availability of Hearing Aids

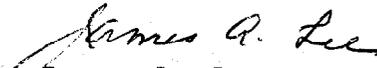
Dear Ms. Henny:

I am much disturbed to hear that efforts are being made to change the rules in respect to the availability of hearing aids. Audiologists are again trying to make hearing aids less available, more expensive than they have been for these many years. This of course means that for some people, hearing aids or up-dated hearing aids will not be available.

There are clearly reputable mail order organizations currently providing excellent hearing aids and service. My wife and I both obtained hearing aids about one year ago, she from an audiologist (supposedly at a discount) and I from Excel Hearing Solutions. We both ended up with very similar, satisfactory aids, but she paid well over twice as much. I don't believe this is an atypical experience.

Please be duly skeptical when you hear the attempted persuasions by the audiologists that they should have the exclusive market for hearing aids.

Very truly yours,

  
James A. Lee

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