



Florida Institute For Better Hearing, Inc.

Exclusive distributors of Beltone Hearing Aids

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DADE COUNTY

N. MIAMI BEACH

16700 N.E. 19th AVE.
N. MIAMI BEACH, FL. 33162
TELEPHONE: 944-0242

MIAMI BEACH

FINANCIAL FEDERAL BLDG.
407 LINCOLN RD.
SUITE 11A
MIAMI BEACH, FL. 33139
TELEPHONE: 673-1111

SOUTH MIAMI

DIXIE BELLE SHOPS
12175 S. DIXIE HWY.
MIAMI, FL. 33156
TELEPHONE: 253-1255

HOMESTEAD

816 N. KROME AVE.
HOMESTEAD, FL. 33030
TELEPHONE: 245-2447

BROWARD COUNTY

HOLLYWOOD - HALLANDALE

4801 HOLLYWOOD BLVD.
HOLLYWOOD, FL. 33021
TELEPHONE: 963-1934

FT. LAUDERDALE

GALLERIA PROFESSIONAL BLDG.
915 MIDDLE RIVER DR. #107
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL. 33304
TELEPHONE: 566-9009

SUNRISE

2700 N. UNIVERSITY DR.
SUNRISE, FL. 33322
TELEPHONE: 748-9003

POMPANO BEACH

MAIN STREET PLAZA
4638 N. FEDERAL HWY.
POMPANO BEACH, FL. 33064
TELEPHONE: 946-7888

FT. LAUDERDALE

944 CYPRESS CREEK RD.
(N.E. 62nd STREET)
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL. 33334
TELEPHONE: 493-7716

PEMBROKE PINES

MEMORIAL WEST OFFICE BLDG.
601 N. FLAMINGO RD. SUITE 203
PEMBROKE PINES, FL. 33028
TELEPHONE: 1-800-660-6303

MONROE COUNTY

KEY WEST

OPPENHEIMER EYE CLINIC
1708 N. ROOSEVELT BLVD.
KEY WEST, FL. 33040
TELEPHONE: 294-6467
TOLL FREE: 1-800-660-6303

KEY LARGO

TRADEWINDS PLAZA
101413 OVERSEAS HWY.
KEY LARGO, FL. 33037
TELEPHONE: 1-800-249-9977

September 16, 2000

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

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am a small business owner in Miami, Dade, and Broward, Florida, providing hearing health care services to the area's hearing impaired. I am very concerned that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is reportedly advocating changes to the current hearing aid regulations that would dramatically increase the cost of hearing health care and reduce access to hearing health care providers. Please take the time to consider the impact of this proposed hearing aid rule on the nation's hearing-impaired and on the nation's small business hearing health care providers, as required by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA).

Hearing health care providers like me have been working with the FDA since 1993 to streamline the current FDA hearing aid regulations. Now, just weeks before the election of a new Administration, FDA is rushing to put forth a proposal that could eliminate hearing aid specialists like me from the marketplace. FDA reportedly favors allowing each state to determine the conditions for dispensing hearing aids. This will create inconsistency and confusion and will launch a 50-state effort by audiologists to install themselves as the sole gatekeepers to hearing health care without any medical or health policy justification.

As you may have seen, the AARP recently published a Consumer Guide to Hearing Aids which found that "almost everyone with a hearing loss hears better with a hearing aid, yet only 20 percent of those who need a hearing aid have one." Please don't let the FDA erect unwarranted barriers to this safe and effective medical device.

Please don't let the FDA publish its proposed hearing aid rule.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature of Herbert D. Gorlin]

Herbert D. Gorlin, BC-HIS

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 **Beltone** HEARING AID CENTER
16700 N.E. 19TH AVENUE
N. MIAMI BEACH, FL 33162-9927



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

