ALLEN L. DEEN, D.D.S., B.S.
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GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 39507-3236
PHONE: 228-896-6252

Honorable Donna E. Shalala

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Dear Ms. Shalala,

I am a very concerned senior citizen, and Family Nurse Practition presently working in my husband's office. It makes no sense to me that seniors like me after more than seven years of inaction the F.D.A. is now rushing to put forth a new proposal that would change the way seniors like me access hearing health care and hearing aids. We see many people on a daily basis that would benefit from hearing aids. Medicaid and medicare, as I am sure you are aware do not cover hearing aids for the elderly in most states. The barriers that exist presently are stringent enough. Another ruling would simply mean that many elderly people that could benefit from hearing aids will go without. I wear bi naural aids. My hearing loss which is greater than 60% is caused by otosclerosis. This condition was diagnosed when I was in my early thirties. Like most people with otosclerosis in the early stages of the disease process, hearing slowly deteriorates; however, after a certain period of time ~~the~~ becomes stable. Yes, surgical intervention is possible in the early stages of the disease process. Unfortunately even after several attempts my hearing did not improve. I am consequently unable to hear without hearing aids. I buy my hearing aids from a local audiological technician at a resonable rate. I no longer need to see an E.N.T. Specialist or an audiologist. My technician does not profess to being an audiolist, he simply provides a service for me that would be far more costly if I had to visit a specialist. My technician would be the very first to refer me to a specialist if he felt that it was warranted; and, has referred me occansionally.

Please let me know what you have done to stop the proposed hearing aid rule from being issued by the F.D.A, in the twilight of the current administration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely Judy A. Deen. F.N.P.

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Judy A. Deen. F.N.P.
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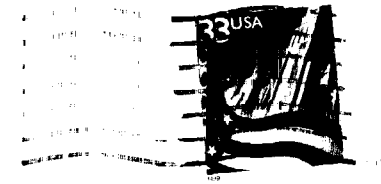

Honorable Donna E. Shalala
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