

# Attention FDA

It came to my attention that the FDA is being asked to take away my right to sign a medical waiver before purchasing a hearing aid. Instead I would be forced to have a medical exam or hearing test. Here's my views and/or experiences on several related questions?

1. Should I be forced to have a medical exam and/or hearing test before purchasing a hearing aid? If so, should the FDA pay for the exam?
  2. Some people are physically unable to drive to a doctor or hearing specialist, or have had bad experiences they don't want to repeat. For instance ...
  3. Should the FDA take away my Constitutional Right, affirmed by the Supreme Court, to decide for myself my medical exams and treatment?
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4. Should I be allowed to purchase hearing aids by mail as I choose?

Signed by: W. J. Bell

Date: 3-6-00

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Ms. Jane Henney, MD  
 Commissioner Food and Drug Administration  
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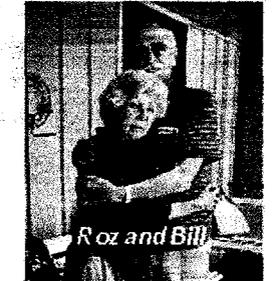
Dear Ms. Henney: I understand that audiologists are endeavoring to take away our right to purchase hearing aids and associated devices from independent hearing aid sources, in order to force us to buy at exorbitant prices solely from them. This would be a tragedy for thousands of us who depend upon the reliable sources that so many of us have been using for decades.

I have been using hearing devices for about 35 years now, all of which I have purchased from hearing aid suppliers such as EXCEL in DeKalb, IL. And I have always been most pleased with their service and with equipment I purchased from them. Actually, I doubt if I would be able to buy hearing aids at the prices many of my friends have been forced to pay by audiologists. Then too, some of those friends have received aids from audiologists that were not satisfactory, so I have referred them to my supplier. He has been able to work with them successfully, with just a phone call instead of a troublesome appointment and long delays.

Accordingly, Ms. Henney, please for my sake and for that of so many other older people who are trying to live on Social Security, or those who otherwise would like to be able to buy from whomever they choose, do not allow the audiologists to take this privilege away from us.

Sincerely,

  
 William Pfaff



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