

To Whom It May Concern,

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After finding out that you, the FDA are trying to take away my rights by forcing me to purchase hearing aids form a doctor or an audiologist, I feel that it is necessary for me to express my views concerning this matter.

I have purchased hearing aids by mail with great confidence and satisfaction. On at least one occasion, I purchased two BTE aids on a forty-five day trial period. Before the forty-five day trial period was over, I returned the aids at no cost to me.

On another occasion, I purchased two hearing aids and a remote control through an audiologist for a thirty day trial period. I was told that the hearing aids and the remote control were guaranteed against loss. During the trial period, the remote control was lost at which time I notified the audiologist of the loss and that I was unsatisfied with the hearing aids and that I wished to return them. He then informed me that I would have to pay five hundred dollars for the remote control. The price of these hearing aids was about four times the amount that I can order aids by mail.

I have worked with electronics for many years and I strongly feel that instead of taking my rights away, you should do something about the high price that doctors and audiologists charge for hearing aids. Hearing loss is a tremendous disability that those who have not suffered it do not understand. It shouldn't be made more difficult! It is unreal that one hearing aid should be more costly than a fully loaded Gateway computer that can perform unlimited tasks. Please consider those of us who are disabled by hearing loss and do something to reduce prices charged by audiologists and doctors and also keep the mail order available to those who benefit from it.

Sincerely,

Horace S. McMichael

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