

HAROLD R. FULTON
1920 McKinney Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75201
Telephone 214 871 4730 MAY -4 A10:30
FAX 214 871 1586

March 13, 2000

Ms. Jane Henney, MD
Commissioner Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Henney:

It is my understanding, it is under consideration before you to regulate the dispensing of hearing aids by mail.

The current policy of allowing reputable companies to dispense hearing aids by mail has worked very well and is a great time and money saver to the consumer.

Over the years I have visited several audiologists, and in my opinion they are for the most part rip off artists. They have always attempted to sell a higher priced product that needed or I could afford.

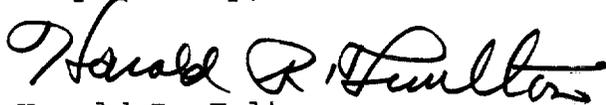
In my opinion, government regulation to force consumers into the clutches of the audiologists and doctors is totally incorrect and would only benefit these people at the cost to the hearing aid consumer.

After many years of using hearing aids that simply magnify the sound, which are the most commonly purchased and used by hearing aid consumers. These aids are exclusively sold via the mail. recently I needed to move into the digitally programmable type. Not a pleasant move and at the cost of nearly six thousand dollars. (\$6,000.00).

The audiologist related to me that the hearing aid itself was not very expensive, what I was paying for was her services for one year in the event some adjustments needed to be made in the programming.

If you are sincere in wanting to perform a service for consumers, I would suggest some action be taken to reduce the price consumers pay for hearing aids. In my opinion a great portion of the industry is less than ethical.

Respectfully,



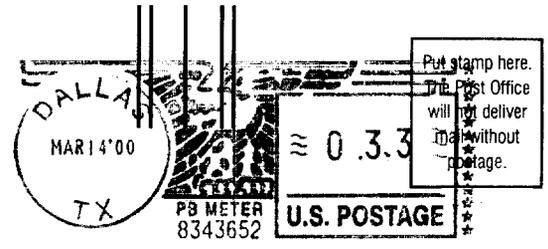
Harold R. Fulton

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105 N First Street - FDA Survey
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DeKalb, IL 60115-0586

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