

Copy of letter J. Healy

**Weaversville Inn,
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Dr. Jane Henney, MD
Commissioner,
Food and Drug Administration,
5600 Fisher's Lane,
Rockville, MD, 20857

from 0407 '00 John Healy
tel: 610 262 1152
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March 26 2000

Madam,

I take the liberty of writing to you because I have learned from a hearing aid supplier that there is a proposal to forbid the supply of such apparatus unless on the prescription of a physician. I write to suggest that this would not be a good or necessary ruling.

I am, myself, a semi-retired physician. I have had excellent service from two different companies that supplied these aids directly. I know of no common, important reason why someone who is becoming a bit deaf as he or she ages cannot try the effect of a simple cheap hearing aid, particularly since both firms stated clearly that the apparatus could be returned within, I think thirty days, if it did not help.

If one excludes maybe wax, the serious ear diseases that might reduce hearing are unlikely to show great symptomatic improvement from a simple aid.

Reading glasses can be bought directly. There are a lot of eye diseases that do not produce very obvious symptoms until the trouble is advanced. I believe that anyone in our trade would say that, among adults, there are many more serious and common conditions affecting the eye than the ear.

One can buy many sorts of medication without prescription. We do not need to expand on that.

Why should I have to pay a doctor for permission to wear a hearing aid and then pay maybe \$1,000 or \$1,500 for something I can get for \$200 or \$300 ?

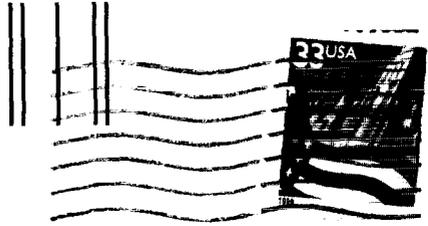
Yours sincerely,

John Healy, MB., FRCR

934-0372

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FROM
A. Head
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CHECK HERE IF NEW ADDRESS



EXCEL Hearing Solutions

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DeKalb, IL 60115-0586

MAR 30 2000

