

# SEARS

## Hearing Aid Centers

October 20, 2000

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Honorable Donna E. Shalala  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 615F  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am Vincent Yero, 39 years of age, a Manager for a Business Owner in Fairview Heights, IL. I service the Hearing-Impaired community by testing, dispensing and counseling hundreds of patients with their Hearing Health needs. I have been providing my services as a (Board Certified) Hearing Instrument Specialist for nine years. I am married 17 years to a wonderful woman and have four children, all under the age of 13 years. They are very dependent upon my profession and me.

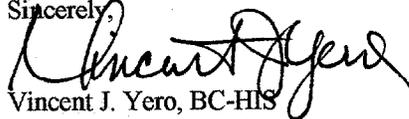
I am writing to you because I am worried and upset that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is proposing only after several years of ignoring this ill proposed ruling to try to pass it through as quickly as possible. If this is passed I will no longer have a "profession"; I will be on unemployment and taking from the system, instead of contributing to it.

I am writing to you on behalf of my wife and four children. You can do something about this; I need your help specifically in opposing this proposed law that, if passed would allow only Audiologists as an entry point into the Hearing Healthcare System. As it stands now, Audiologists, Physicians, and Board Certified/Licensed Hearing Instrument Specialists are the "*already acceptable*" entry point for the Hearing-Impaired Community. Over 26 million Americans suffer from hearing loss. Currently we only reach a small percentage of this community. Therefore, to narrow the entry point would not only slow our outreach, and hurt the Hearing-Impaired Community, it would also cause added stress to the Audiologists themselves.

This proposed law may have initially been thought with "*good intentions*", however the long-term effects of this idea will hurt all parties involved. I am requiring you as a representative of the people to oppose this law and vote against it.

Thank you for your efforts in this critical matter. I have enclosed an address and telephone number should you wish to speak with me further. I would appreciate a response or copy of any correspondence you send on my behalf, my family and I are eagerly awaiting good news.

Sincerely,



Vincent J. Yero, BC-HIS  
(Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences)  
Sears Hearing Aid Center

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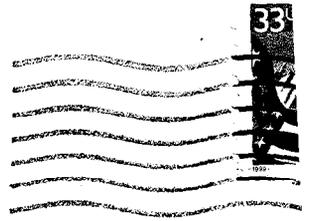
Sears Hearing Aid Center  
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235 St. Clair Square  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208



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