

# HEAR IN KENTUCKY

HEARING INSTRUMENTS

12420 Shelbyville Road

Louisville, Kentucky 40243

Phone (502) 244-2083 111 '00 OCT 19 P1:56

Fax (502) 244-8442

October 6, 2000

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

Dear Secretary Shalala:

As an employee of a small business and a hearing health care provider for the past 35 years, I write to you concerning hearing aids. As the AARP has confirmed, hearing aids are highly effective but dramatically under utilized medical devices.

It has come to my attention that the FDA has reportedly sent to you a proposal for revising the current regulations governing the dispensing of hearing aids in this country. This proposal would dramatically increase the cost hearing health care services and greatly restrict access to hearing health care providers. Please carefully consider the impact that this proposed rule will have on the nation's hearing impaired and on the nation's small business hearing aid specialist. In particular, please ensure that any proposed rule meets the obligations of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

I know you are aware, that hearing impairment is a major health care concern, please don't let the FDA put forth a rule that will impede access to needed health care services for millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

  
John W. Callahan, BC-HIS  
Kentucky license # 17

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**HEAR IN KENTUCKY**  
Evergreen Station  
12420 Shelbyville Road  
Louisville, KY 40243



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