



BELTONE HEARING  
AID CENTER  
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8136 '00 OCT 19 P1:59

412 Saginaw Street  
Bay City, MI 48708  
(517) 894-5550

130 W. Houghton Ave.  
West Branch, MI 48661  
(517) 343-0222

October 4, 2000

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

Dear Secretary Shalala,

The Food and Drug Administration may shortly propose changes to the way hearing aids are sold that could impede access to hearing care services for millions of senior citizens, and threaten the survival of my business.

I am a state licensed hearing instrument specialist. For over 26 years I have provided hearing health care services to literally thousands of our state's hearing impaired individuals. Presently, all three members of the hearing health care delivery system are recognized as qualified entry points into the hearing health care delivery system, (hearing aid specialists, audiologists, and physicians). The rule FDA is advocating would allow the audiologists, without any justification, to be installed as the sole entry point into hearing health care by allowing states to require tests that only audiologists conduct, prior to the purchase of a hearing aid.

Allowing audiologists an exclusive role in the hearing aid delivery system, without medical data evidencing that such a role is necessary for public health reasons, would severely undermine public health, would increase costs to the hearing impaired, and would threaten the survival of my business.

Please don't let the FDA put forth their proposed rule that would impede access to needed hearing health care services for millions of Americans and threaten the survival of long established businesses like mine.

93N-0372

Very Truly Yours,

David A. Beattie  
Pres.  
Beattie Hearing Aid Services Inc.

C4667



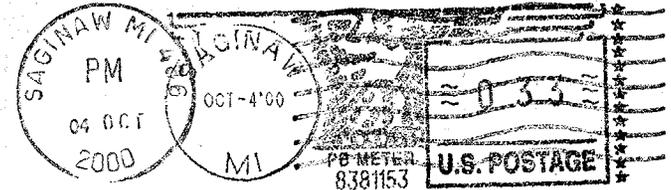
*Helping the world hear better*

4084 STATE STREET

P.O. BOX 3233

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN 48605

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

