Avada

Hearing Care Centers of Arizona

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Mesa
456 W. Main Street - Suite M
Mesa, AZ 85201
480-962-4707

East Mesa
4830 E. Main Street - Suite 8
Mesa, AZ 85205
480-924-3310

Scottsdale
7537 E. McDowell Road - Suite 129
Scottsdale, AZ 85257
480-481-9200

Apache Junction
100 W. Apache Trail #8
Apache Junction, AZ 85220
480-924-3310

N. Scottsdale
10613 N. Hayden Road - Suite J107A
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
480-481-9200

Sun Lake
10440 E. Riggs Road - Suite 203
Sun Lake, AZ 85249
480-962-4707

October 10,2000

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

Dear Secretary Shalala:

As a hearing health care provider, I write with respect to hearing aids. As the AARP has confirmed, hearing aids are highly effective but dramatically underutilized medical devices.

I am very concerned with reports that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has reportedly sent to you a proposal, for revising the current regulations governing the dispensing of hearing aids in this country, that would dramatically increase the cost of hearing health care services and restrict access to hearing health care providers. Please stop and carefully consider the impact that this proposed rule would have on the nation's hearing impaired and on the nation's small business hearing aid specialists. In particular, please ensure that any proposed rule meets the obligations of the Small business regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

Hearing impairment is a major health care concern. 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.

Very truly yours,

Bill Slowey

Bill Slowey
National Board Certified in Hearing Instruments Science

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Avada
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[redacted]
7537 E. McDowell #129
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

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