

Robin Hutson
1057 Broad Street
Sumter, S. C. 29150

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

Dear Secretary Shalala:

Realizing the needs of the hearing impaired, I have worked to achieve as much excellence and caring in this field as possible. Although completing my formal education and attaining my license in 1993, I have continued throughout the ensuing years to further my education and remain constantly abreast of any and all advances and changes in hearing health care.

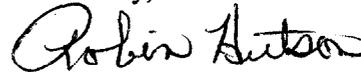
The revision on current regulations governing dispensing of hearing aids being proposed by the Food and Drug Administration attacks the credibility and integrity of board certified, state licensed hearing Instrument specialist. These changes would impair me professionally and would impede many handicapped individuals seeking professional assistance.

The advancement in hearing instruments have made them no longer just amplification devices but fine tuned hearing instruments. As stated by AARP ; hearing aids are highly effective but dramatically underutilized medical devices due partially to the lack of financial assistance from Medicare and other government programs.

By setting audiologists apart as the higher echelon of hearing care you will inadvertently open the door for them to [in the future] mandate all regulations governing this field.

Respecting the training and value of the audiologist, I would ask you to realize the value and training of professionals such as myself. And request you to quash any and all of these revisions currently proposed by the FDA.

Sincerely,



Robin Hutson

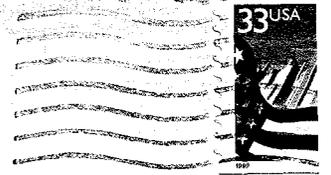
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