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From: Larry Daffron <rustyputts@aol.com> on 10/13/2000 04:32 PM GMT
Please respond to Larry Daffron <rustyputts@aol.com>

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To: president@Whitehouse.GOV
cc:
Subject: Hearing Care Provider Discrimination

[Connection Information]

CLIENT: 208.25.59.144 [208.25.59.144]
BROWSER: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 5.01; Windows 98)
URL: http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Mail/html/Mail_President.html

[Sender Information]

PERSONAL-NAME: Larry Daffron
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[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Seek assistance from the White House
TOPIC: Health Care
AFFILIATION: Small Business Owner or Employee
SUBJECT: Hearing Care Provider Discrimination

[Message]

October 10, 2000

President William Clinton 1600 Pennsylvania Ave Washington,
D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton,

The Food and Drug Administration may shortly propose changes to the way hearing instruments are sold. This change could put me out of business and will impede access to hearing care services for millions of our nations hearing impaired, most of which are seniors.

I am a board certified, state-licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist. For over 12 years I have provided quality hearing

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care services to thousands of our state s hearing impaired. Presently, all three members of the hearing health care delivery team (hearing aid specialist, audiologists and physicians) are recognized as qualified entry points into the hearing health care delivery system. The rule FDA is advocating would allow audiologists without any justification to install themselves as the sole entry point into hearing health care by allowing states to require tests that only audiologist conduct prior to the purchase of a hearing aid. This will give an unfair advantage to audiologists as gatekeepers over my practice.

Allowing audiologists an exclusive role in the hearing aid delivery system, without unqualified medical data evidencing that such role is necessary for public health reasons, will severely undermine public health and safety and will increase costs and accessibility to millions of hearing impaired.

Please write the Secretary of Health and urge that this FDA proposed hearing aid rule be withdrawn.

I look forward to your response and would appreciate a copy of any letters you send on my behalf requesting this rule to be withdrawn.

Sincerely yours,

Larry R. Daffron, HA2629