



December 2, 2000

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BELTONE HEARING CARE CENTER  
1614B West Friendly Ave.  
Greensboro, NC 27403  
Telephone: 389-1515  
(Mon.-Fri. 8:30 to 5:00)

2114 Maple Ave.  
Burlington, NC 27215  
Telephone: 228-8658  
(Mon.-Fri. 9:00 to 5:00)

532½ Sunset Ave.  
Asheboro, NC 27203  
Telephone: 629-4562  
(Mon.-Fri. 9:00 to 5:00)

Pennrose Mall  
S. Scales St.  
Reidsville, NC 27320  
Telephone: 349-2073

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 small business owner and hearing health care provider, I write with respect to hearing aids. As the AARP has confirmed, hearing aids are highly effective but dramatically underutilized 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 will 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,

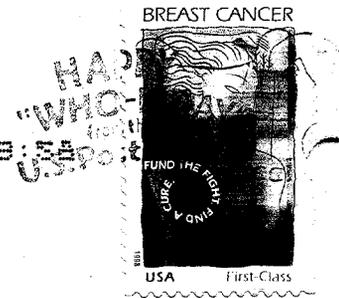
Nancy H. Schiltz, Hearing Instrument Specialist, BC-HIS  
President/Owner

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**Beltone™**  
Beltone Inc.  
614B West Friendly Ave.  
Greensboro, NC 27403

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

