

PHI

Precision Hearing Instruments, Inc.

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October 14, 2000

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

Dear Secretary Shalala:

The FDA is proposing to alter the way hearing aids are sold that may put me out of business and will alter hearing care for millions of our nation's hard-of-hearing.

I am a board certified state-licensed hearing instrument specialist for over 12 years. I am currently employed at Sears/Miracle Ear in the Oakdale Mall, Johnson City, New York. The FDA is now advocating that audiologists, without any justification, to be the sole entry point into the hearing industry by allowing states to require tests that only audiologists could conduct prior to the purchase of a hearing aid. This rule would severely impede public health and safety and would increase costs to the hearing impaired. By allowing audiologists exclusive rights in this system would put hundreds of thousands of people out of business, people like myself who have dedicated years of professional service to the hearing impaired.

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.

I appreciate anything you can do in this matter.

Sincerely,

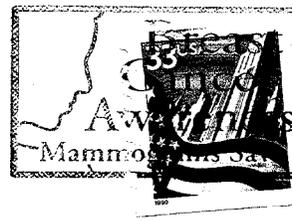
Shane Patrick McNamara, BC/HIS
PHI, Inc./Miracle Ear

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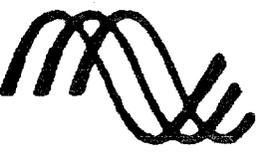
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The Honorable Donna Shalala
Secretary of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
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