

Attention FDA

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It came to my attention that the FDA is being asked to take away my right to sign a medical waiver before purchasing a hearing aid. Instead I would be forced to have a medical exam or hearing test. Here's my views and/or experiences on several related questions?

1. Should I be forced to have a medical exam and/or hearing test before purchasing a hearing aid? If so, should the FDA pay for the exam? I am a disabled veteran and I live in a rural community. I have a limited income and must depend on others to provide transportation for me many times. My hearing level will never improve and I don't need anyone to tell me how deaf I am. I require about as powerful a hearing aid as I can buy. No Audiologist or doctor can help me.
2. Some people are physically unable to drive to a doctor or hearing specialist, or have had bad experiences they don't want to repeat. For instance ...

3. Should the FDA take away my Constitutional Right, affirmed by the Supreme Court, to decide for myself my medical exams and treatment?

My main concern is what I would do if I could not purchase the less expensive hearing-aids through a mail-order house if my current hearing-aid goes bad. I would probably not be able to be somewhat as independent as I am now and I would be forced into a costly convalescent home against my will.

4. Should I be allowed to purchase hearing aids by mail as I choose?

Perhaps the FDA would be willing to send a doctor or audiologist to my home at their expense? I doubt it! So give us a break and let us deaf folks make our own choices on where we want to buy our hearing-aids. Do not put the responsible mail-order houses out of business!!!

Signed by: Sidney S. Van Loer Date: March 9, 2000

3N-0372

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