September 2000

Dear Secretary Shalala: granddaughter of a

I am a very concerned senior citizen. It makes no sense to me that, after more than seven years of inaction, the FDA is now rushing to put forth a new proposal that would change the way seniors like me access hearing health care and hearing aids.

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Please stop the FDA from acting on this proposed hearing aid rule. I'm sure you, like me, don't want to see any additional barriers erected to hearing health care in this country. Only about 20% of the people who could benefit from hearing aids actually use them, despite the known benefits of hearing amplification that were recently confirmed in an AARP report.

Please let me know what you have done to stop the proposed hearing aid rule from being issued by the FDA in the twilight of the current Administration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Shelyn Kvarnlov

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Honorable Donna E. Shalala
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