

**TRI-COUNTY AUDIOLOGY &
HEARING AID SERVICES
DAVID DITCHFIELD AUDIOPROSTHOLOGIST**

3519 LECANTO HWY
BEVERLY HILLS FL 34465
352-746-1133

October 10, 2000

Honorable Donna Shalala
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 615F
Washington, D.C. 20201

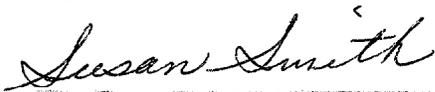
Dear Secretary Shalala,

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 medical 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 services and restrict access to hearing health care providers. Please stop and carefully consider the impact that this proposed rule would 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,



Susan Smith
Hearing Aid Specialist

93N 0372

C 5031