



Dear Friends:

Thank you for your continued advocacy and support of hearing aid tax credit legislation (HR1646/S1019) that would provide assistance to consumers in purchasing a hearing aid. The legislation has received tremendous support on Capitol Hill this year, with a record 124 Representatives and 10 Senators cosponsoring the bills. This could not have been achieved without the outstanding teamwork of consumers, hearing health providers and hearing aid manufacturers.

But we can't stop now! The next six months present a great opportunity for action on the tax credit when major legislation will be considered to address expiring tax provisions. Senators and Representatives will be in their home districts from August 7 through September 13, and it is especially critical that members of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees hear from voters about the hearing aid tax credit.

To do that, your help is needed! We urge you to do one or both of the following in the coming weeks:

1. **Make an appointment with your Rep/Senator to meet with them or a district staffer in their local office.** These informal meetings are highly effective in demonstrating local support for the bill. We can provide the support you need for the meeting, and link members from different groups to coordinate efforts. Reply to this e-mail to coordinate an event in your district.
2. **Attend a Town Hall or other event in the district that your Senator/Rep attends,** and mention the hearing aid tax credit during the Q&A period. You can often find out where your Rep or Senators will be by checking their official websites. We can also help you with local meeting locations and times.

Although Ways and Means and Finance Committees are a primary focus during recess, efforts in other states for non-committee members are also strongly encouraged. Check www.hearingaidtaxcredit.org to determine whether your Representative and Senators are already a tax credit co-sponsor, and to ask them to support the bill if not.

With your help, the hearing health coalition had a tremendous success earlier this year in opposing a tax on hearing aids during the health care reform debate. Your continued voice and local activism is essential to maintain the support and interest in hearing health issues on Capitol Hill.

Sincerely,

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG BELL)
Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA)
American Academy of Audiology (AAA)
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
Hearing Industries Association (HIA)
Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)
International Hearing Society (IHS)