

**KENTUCKY ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY  
1717 HIGH STREET, STE. 2-C  
HOPKINSVILLE, KY 42240**

November 28, 2007

The Honorable Mike Ross  
U.S. House of Representatives  
314 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-3225

Dear Representative Ross:

On behalf of the Kentucky Academy of Audiology, I would like to thank you for the support you have shown on hearing healthcare issues and for being a leader in promoting policies to help those with hearing loss.

The Kentucky Academy of Audiology fully endorses HR 1665, which would give direct access for Medicare beneficiaries to see their qualified audiologist for the evaluation of hearing and/or balance issues, without the referral of a physician or other health care practitioner. This legislation would have a positive effect on accessibility of services for the beneficiaries without diminishing the role of physicians or expanding the scope of practice of audiologists.

As I am sure you know, the VA has utilized this method of providing audiological services for many years and has found it to be the best way to provide excellent quality in care for their patients with the benefit of being cost effective. Many health plans offered today, even the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, allow their beneficiaries direct access to audiologists.

The Kentucky Academy of Audiology appreciates your efforts in promoting this important initiative in Congress. Thank you for recognizing the need for improving, not only the Medicare monetary needs, but the availability of hearing care resources in the United States for our many Americans whom are hearing impaired.

Sincerely,

Angela M. Morris, Au.D., FAAA  
Board Certified in Audiology  
President, Kentucky Academy of Audiology