

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

March 14, 2008

Dear Representative Ross,

On behalf of the North Carolina Academy of Audiology, I thank you and commend you for sponsoring and introducing HR1665!

Our academy endorses the Medicare Hearing Health Care Enhancement Act of 2007(HR1665) because it will improve access to Medicare beneficiaries for important audio/vestibular evaluation and treatment. At the same time it will not diminish the role of medical physicians nor expand the scope of practice for audiologists.

As you know, the department of Veterans Affairs has allowed veterans to see an audiologist directly since 1992 and has indicated that direct access to audiology services provides quality hearing health care and is "cost effective". The Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, administered by the Office of Personnel Management, and many private health plans now allow participants in their respective health care programs direct access to audiologists as well.

We cannot thank you enough for your diligence in passing legislation that makes sense and helps the hearing impaired population.

Warm Regards,



Andrew J. Fallon, Au.D.  
Doctor of Audiology  
President, North Carolina Academy of Audiology