



PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY

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June 8, 2007

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

Dear Rep. Ross:

On behalf of the approximately 300 members of the Pennsylvania Academy of Audiology, I want to thank you for your recent sponsorship and introduction of HR 1665. The Medicare Hearing Health Care Enhancement Act of 2007 will provide easier and more efficient avenues of evaluation and treatment for Medicare beneficiaries with audio/vestibular disorders.

Our Academy endorses HR1665. Direct access to audiology services has been the accepted hearing healthcare pathway for veterans since 1992. A review by the Department of Veterans' Affairs has indicated that direct access provides the veteran quality hearing care and is more cost effective when compared to the traditional medical model.

The Federal Employee Health Benefits Program and many private health care plans here in Pennsylvania also allow direct access for audiologic care.

The Academy appreciates your hard work and attention to the needs of the communicatively impaired. We all struggle to communicate effectively with one another. Those with hearing loss frequently struggle in silence due to embarrassment, denial or fear of encroaching senility.

Thank you for your concern and recognition of the importance of audiologic care in enhancing the quality of life for those with impairments.

Sincerely,

Joan D'Alessandro, AuD, FAAA
Doctor of Audiology
President, Pennsylvania Academy of Audiology

cc: Kate Thomas, American Academy of Audiology