Whereas, audiologists are professionals with Master’s or Doctoral Degrees in audiology, and hold state licenses that reflect the scope of practice that includes diagnostic and treatment services for persons with hearing and balance disorders, and

Whereas, audiologists are uniquely educated and trained in the evaluation, assessment, diagnosis, management, treatment and prevention of hearing and balance problems, and

Whereas, university training programs provide for rigorous theoretical and clinical education and training in the area of hearing aids and hearing assistive technologies, and

Whereas, audiologists are regulated by state licensure or registration in all fifty states and the District of Columbia, and

Whereas, in most states audiologists are currently able to dispense hearing aids and hearing assistive technology under a single audiology license, and

Whereas, these states recognize that the education and training of audiologists ensures consumer protection in the evaluation, selection, fitting, selling, and provision of counseling and follow-up care, without requiring a separate license, and

Whereas, there is significant disparity in educational levels between licensed audiologists and hearing aid dealers/dispensers, and

Whereas, consumers can be confused by the requirement for audiologists to hold two separate licenses when the scope of practice of audiology is significantly more extensive than services offered by hearing aid dealers/dispensers, and

Whereas, in Gandee v. Glaser, the Federal Court established a legal differentiation between audiologists and commercial hearing aid dealers.

RESOLVED, that audiologists by virtue of their education and training may treat hearing loss with hearing aids and hearing assistive technology under a single audiology license.