



11480 Commerce Park Drive tel 800-AAA-2336
Suite 220 fax 703-790-8631
Reston, VA 20191 www.audiology.org

February 10, 2020

Representative Walker Thomas
702 Capital Avenue
Annex Room 329C
Frankfort, KY 40601

Representative Tina Bojanowski
702 Capital Avenue
Annex Room 451E
Frankfort, KY 40601

Re: American Academy of Audiology Support for H.B. 217

Dear Representative Thomas and Representative Bojanowski:

On behalf of the American Academy of Audiology, I am writing to express our strong support for H.B. 217 that would remove the requirement of second licensure for audiologists to sell or fit hearing instruments. Audiologists complete extensive education and training that qualify them to treat hearing loss with hearing aids and hearing assistive technology. Requiring a second license is unnecessary, imposes a financial burden on these health care providers and may be confusing to consumers.

The Academy is the world's largest professional organization of, by and for audiologists. Representing the interests of approximately 14,000 audiologists nationwide, the Academy is dedicated to providing quality hearing and balance care services through professional development, education, research, and increased public awareness of hearing and balance disorders.

An audiologist's level of education and scope of practice are much more expansive than that of hearing aid dealers or dispensers. Audiologists are professionals with Master's or Doctoral degrees in audiology, completing university training programs that provide rigorous theoretical and clinical education on hearing aids and hearing assistive technologies. Additionally, audiologists hold state licenses that reflect a scope of practice that includes diagnostic and treatment services for persons with hearing and balance disorders. Included in this scope of practice are fitting and selling hearing aids to patients and providing patients with the necessary counseling and aural rehabilitation related to the adaptation and utilization of hearing assistance technology.

Most states currently allow audiologists to dispense hearing aids and hearing assistive technology under a single audiology license in recognition that the education and training of audiologists ensures consumer protection in the evaluation, selection, fitting, selling, and provision of counseling and follow-up care. Dual licensure adds no benefit or added protection to the consumer, who may be confused as to which licensure board to contact with concerns or questions.

If you have any further questions, please contact Susan Pilch, J.D., Senior Director, Government Relations at spilch@audiology.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Palmer".

Catherine V. Palmer, PhD
President