

The American Academy of Audiology (AAA), Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA), and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) endorse this legislation as a top priority to ensure expedient and optimal hearing and balance health care for the older adult population in the United States.

Outdated Medicare rules have created barriers to care and are far more restrictive than many private and federal insurance plans, including Medicare Advantage, VA health coverage, and the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan. Medicare currently does not recognize audiologists as providers of most hearing-related services and will only allow reimbursement for a narrow set of tests to diagnose a hearing or balance disorder—and only if patients first obtain an order from a physician.

This legislation, H.R. 2757/ S. 1996, would provide a commonsense solution to modernize Medicare regulations to ensure beneficiaries have access to a full range of hearing and balance health care services provided by licensed audiologists. The bill would:

- ▶ Eliminating the physician referral: by removing the pre-treatment order requirements, beneficiaries have streamlined access to audiologists, saving seniors out-of-pocket costs for extra office visits.
- ▶ Reclassify audiologists as practitioners: reclassifying audiologists as practitioners under Medicare enables them to provide services through telehealth beyond the current September 30, 2025, expiration.
- ▶ Ensure coverage of diagnostic and treatment services: support continuity of care and the profession by authorizing reimbursement for Medicare-covered diagnostic and treatment services.

To co-sponsor this important bipartisan legislation or learn more, contact LeighAnn Fairley at Representative Bilirakis office at LeighAnn.Fairley@mail.house.gov.



The Medicare Audiology Access Improvement Act



Contact the Academy

The American Academy of Audiology is the world's largest professional organization of, by, and for audiologists. The American Academy of Audiology serves as the collective voice of audiology. We are committed to advocating for the advancement of the science, practice, and accessibility of hearing and balance health care for our patients.

For more information on the Academy and our Advocacy please visit: www.audiology.org/advocacy. Please contact Joanne Zurcher, Vice President of Government Relations & Policy, with any questions at jzurcher@audiology.org.