



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

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
U.S. House Appropriations Committee
2207 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House Appropriations Committee
2413 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cole and DeLauro:

On behalf of the American Academy of Audiology (AAA)—the largest professional organization of, by, and for audiologists—I respectfully urge you to provide an increase of \$5 million in FY 2027 funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program.

Since its establishment by Congress in 1999, the EHDI program has played a vital role in ensuring that newborns and infants are screened for hearing loss early and receive timely intervention services. Hearing loss is one of the most common congenital conditions, and without early identification and support, it can significantly hinder a child’s development—particularly in language, communication, and social skills.

The EHDI program has successfully built and sustained a national infrastructure supporting statewide newborn hearing screening and follow-up care. Through this system, healthcare providers and families can identify hearing loss by one month of age, confirm diagnosis by three months, and begin intervention services by six months—the widely recognized “1-3-6” benchmarks that are critical to achieving optimal developmental outcomes.

An additional \$5 million in FY 2027 funding would help sustain the progress our nation has made in early hearing detection and intervention. Increased funding is especially important to support underserved communities, strengthen follow-up and intervention services, improve access to care, and prevent significantly higher long-term educational and social costs.

As President of the American Academy of Audiology, I respectfully urge you to protect and strengthen this critical program by providing the requested funding increase in FY 2027. Continued investment in early hearing detection is not only sound public health policy—it is both a moral and economic imperative.

The American Academy of Audiology is dedicated to advancing high-quality hearing and balance care through professional development, education, research, and increased public awareness of hearing and balance disorders. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue further, please contact Joanne Zurcher, MPP, Vice President of Government Relations & Policy, at jzurcher@audiology.org.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Zapala".

David Zapala, PhD