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March 11th, 2026

House Health and Welfare Committee
900 North 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Chair Miller and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Academy of Audiology, the world's largest professional organization of, by, and for audiologists, I want to express the Academy's support of House Bill 925. This legislation focuses on efficiency and reducing barriers to patients' access to timely, coordinated, and effective care, particularly in underserved and rural areas.

Audiologists are the primary healthcare professionals who evaluate, diagnose, treat, and manage hearing loss and balance disorders in individuals of all ages, from infants to older adults. An audiologist's evaluation is the first step in determining if a need exists for further medical intervention and referral. Through House Bill 925, audiologists can order necessary testing for the development of a treatment plan.

The American Academy of Audiology recognizes the need to modernize outdated statutes and regulations that stymie the practice of audiology and its evolution to meet the needs of patients. Efforts at the federal and state levels to remove barriers and expand access are crucial to supporting audiologists in practicing at the top of their license. House Bill 925 prioritizes patient care by ensuring full access to comprehensive hearing and balance healthcare services in the most efficient way.

Sincerely,

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

David Zapala, PhD
President of the American Academy of Audiology