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February 9, 2026

The Honorable Julia A. Morrison
Chair
Illinois Senate Insurance Committee
311 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Chair Morrison:

On behalf of the American Academy of Audiology (AAA), the largest organization of, by, and for audiologists dedicated to advancing quality hearing and balance care through professional development, education, research, and public awareness, I am writing to express our support for Illinois Senate Bill 2838 (SB2838).

SB2838 strengthens consumer protections and promotes transparency and fairness in hearing care plan contracts. The bill requires hearing care plans to clearly communicate coverage details, allowable rates, and whether benefits are funded or unfunded. It also requires disclosure of specific dollar benefit amounts, copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles, helping consumers make informed healthcare and financial decisions.

The bill also increases transparency by requiring hearing care plans owned by prescription hearing aid manufacturers to disclose ownership information in marketing materials, plan documents, and on their websites. The requirement for hearing care organizations to register with the Illinois Department of Insurance beginning January 1, 2027, establishes important regulatory oversight. Further, violations of these provisions will be enforceable under the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act.

AAA also appreciates the collaborative stakeholder process used to develop this legislation, including engagement with the Illinois Life & Health Insurance Council, which remains neutral on the bill.

For these reasons, the American Academy of Audiology supports SB2838 and respectfully urges its passage. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy's Vice President of Government Relations and Policy, Joanne Zurcher at JZurcher@audiology.org.

Sincerely,

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

David Zapala, PhD
President
American Academy of Audiology

Cc: Senate Insurance Committee Members

Visit our consumer-friendly Web site at www.howsyourhearing.org.