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To Whom It May Concern:


This letter is written on behalf of the Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA) in support of proposed legislation that when enacted will enable people with hearing loss to have greater access communication accommodations in public places.

It is our understanding that the proposed legislation includes language that will ensure that consumers who purchase hearing aids will receive counseling about hearing aid options that can provide a direct connection between the hearing aid and assistive listening systems. Assistive listening systems are considered reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Public facilities are often large, noisy and do not carry sound well. This means that persons with significant hearing loss, when attending events in the facility, will be in need of assisting listening systems to allow them to understand and participate appropriately in events.

Many persons purchase a hearing aid as a "cure" for hearing loss. The fact is that hearing aids are assistive devices, NOT corrective devices, and persons making the purchase need counseling and advising on how to maximize the benefit of a hearing aid. It is our perspective that this legislation will enhance the opportunity for consumers to obtain the best possible information on use of hearing aids.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at SLarew@aol.com or call 904 429 1088 VP.

Sincerely,



Steve Larew
President

MISSION STATEMENT: To Support the Empowerment of Deafened People