

07-17-2018

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing to ask for your support of a House Bill that is designed to require hearing care providers to counsel clients on the benefits of technology that provides a direct connection between hearing aids and assistive listening systems that includes audio switch (telecoil) technology in the Speech-Language-Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act.

People with even the best of hearing aids and/or cochlear implants have substantial challenges in understanding public address systems, conversations, and alerting systems because the surrounding noise is greater than the signal they want to hear. They are unable to enjoy the music at the concert hall, the minister at church, the overhead announcements at airports, or their own TV or telephone because their hearing aids or cochlear implants cannot eliminate the noise significantly enough to allow them to understand what they desire to hear. Telecoil switch technology, along with various forms of hearing loops, enables people with hearing losses to hear these signals by eliminating the background noise from the signal.

The proposed legislation is meant to educate the patients of hearing aid dispensers about the possible benefits of the telecoil so they can make an educated, informed decision. As an audiologist who has dispensed several thousand hearing aids with telecoils over a 24 year period, I have seen the patients benefit from this technology and I endorse this legislation. As a previous educator at the University who taught his students the benefits of such technology, I endorse this legislation. As the son of a father who had two hearing aids and who benefitted from such technology, I endorse this legislation.

I hope you will strongly consider voting yes should the bill come before you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Flores, Audiologist