

Hearing, Speech, RLD

From: Janice Neidigh <janneidigh@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:45 PM
To: Hearing, Speech, RLD
Subject: [EXT] Speech/Hearing licensing board

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the New Mexico Committee for Communication Access efforts to ensure that consumers are fully informed of the value of a tele-coil and the option to have such circuitry built into the hearing aid.

I have had a life long hearing loss. I was never told about the benefits of the tele-coil feature by my audiologist. When I began attending chapter meetings of the 'Hearing Loss Association of America', I had an opportunity to experience what the tele-coil could do. I went back to my audiologist and asked him why I didn't have one in my hearing aids. His reply "I didn't think you need it". Needless to say we had a discussion! He short changed my ability to have clear understanding on the phone, in large venues and in social settings.

Hearing Care Professionals who do not inform their clients of the tele-coil benefits are doing a grave disservice!

Tele-coils coupled with hearing loops and/or personal assistive technology greatly improve the quality of people's lives, including the ability to stay active in society. Please ensure that the law protects the consumer in purchasing the hearing aid so that they are knowledgeable about technology that can help them-and that includes the tele-coil. Include language that the consumer and the hearing care professional must sign a receipt saying they have been informed of the tele-coil and its advantages.

Sincerely

Janice Neidigh
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Hearing Loss Association of America
Gallaudet Certified Peer Mentor
Member of The Indiana Committee for Communication Access