



12 November, 2015

To Whom it May Concern,

With the approval of the Board of Directors of the Las Cruces chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America, I have written this letter on behalf of our members and as the voice for the thousands of hard of hearing New Mexican consumers who could benefit from a requirement that all hearing aid buyers be counseled in hearing aid options that can provide a direct connection between their hearing aids and assistive listening systems that are compliant with the ADA Standards for Accessible Design adopted by the United States Department of Justice in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. ;

Many have the misconception that hearing aids "correct" hearing just as glasses can correct poor vision. This is not the case! Eye glasses make a static correction, always the same abiet complex one to three corrections (regular glasses through tri-focals). The hard of hearing need a dynamic correction. The **wanted** sound must be corrected louder but the **unwanted background noise, must be corrected lower or eliminated**. The "wanted" to "unwanted" sound ratio is called signal to noise ratio. Hearing aids must not only increase the wanted sound but must improve the signal to noise ratio. This is tricky as one moment a sound bit is a voice one wants to hear and the next, an unwanted background voice. Hearing aids can improve the ability to hear, especially in one-on-one situations, but they are not effective with sound traveling over long distances or in overcoming background noise. In such situations hard of hearing listeners often need the additional help provided by federally mandated assistive listening systems.

At our Hearing Loss Association chapter meetings, one of the first things we say is, "the loop is operating so turn on your telecoils." First time visitors then very often ask, "What's a loop and what are telecoils?" In our experience, all too often hearing aid wearers have never been counseled by their audiologist or dispenser on how most hearing aids can improve the signal over the background noise by connecting wirelessly with some assistive listening systems, allowing them to better hear in large, sometimes noisy venues. Over 70% of current hearing aid models contain this long standing technology but too few users even know their hearing aids have this capability.

We, the Las Cruces chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America, urge you to support revision of 61-14B- 5 and 61-14B-6 of the New Mexico statutes to require that such counseling be provided before the sale and dispensing of hearing aids.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Uribe".

David Uribe, President  
Hearing Loss Association of America, Las Cruces Chapter