

Hearing, Speech, RLD

From: [Linda Loftus](#)

Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 5:56 PM

To: Speech.Hearing@state.nm.us

Subject: To Whom It May Concern

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the Committee for Communication Access efforts to ensure that consumers are fully informed of the value of a telecoil and the option to have such circuitry built into the hearing aid. I started wearing hearing aids when I was 25 years old. I was lucky enough to have learned about telecoils as a member of Hearing Loss Association of America and utilized the telecoil setting frequently as my hearing loss progressed. Before I got my bilateral cochlear implants, I was using an assistive technology device with my telecoil weekly-if not daily to keep my job and interact with family and friends.

Indiana just passed a law last year that requires hearing care professionals to inform their clients of the telecoil. Public buildings that are newly constructed or renovated have to get a quote for the installation of a hearing loop. We couldn't get it passed that it would require installation, but during one of the House Committee meetings a member mentioned he could see this becoming law in a couple of years. There is a nationwide movement to "Loop America." As more venues are looped, think of the disservice a hearing care provider would do if they did not inform their customer of the telecoil.

Telecoils 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 customer in purchasing the hearing aid so that they are knowledgeable about technology that can help them-and that includes the telecoil. Include language that the consumer and the hearing care professional must sign a receipt saying they have been informed of the telecoil and its advantages.

Sincerely,

Linda Loftus

Chair, The Indiana Committee for Communication Access

Michiana Chapter, Hearing Loss Association of America member

Deaf and Hard of Hearing teacher

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

