



**John Greer Clark, Ph.D.**  
**Department of Communication**  
**Sciences and Disorders**  
**College of Allied Health Sciences**  
University of Cincinnati  
PO Box 670379  
Cincinnati, OH 45267-0379

3202 Eden Avenue  
344 French East Building  
Phone (513) 558-8507  
Fax (513) 558-8500  
Email jg.clark@uc.edu

August 10, 2019

Attention: Members of the New Mexico Speech-Language Pathology-Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Board

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. Before transitioning to academia I was a dispensing audiologist in the state of Ohio for more than 25 years.

Over 20 years ago, when few venues in my area were looped for hearing aid telecoils, I rarely included the telecoil as an option unless I felt the user would have feedback with telephone use. I recall with chagrin when a patient came in with his relatively new hearing aid and asked me how he could access the new loop his church had installed. It was a painful discussion as I realized I had not foreseen how my actions would fail to provide the quality service all of my patients deserved.

There is a tendency among most of us to stay with what is comfortable and to not burden ourselves with what we may view as unnecessary steps. It was then that I realized part of being a professional was to challenge myself to view the care I provided from my patients' vantage point and to strive to ensure each patient was fully informed of all avenues that could bring them closer to their goal of the greatest audibility possible in each situation encountered.

All patients have the right to have something as simple as a telecoil presented them. To ensure this is done, the patient should document (initial) the contract to indicate that the discussion had taken place. I respectfully request that the board give positive consideration to the Committee for Communication Access proposed revision to the new ruling regarding telecoils.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Greer Clark'.

John Greer Clark, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Audiology Program Director

