



October 11, 2019

Dear Licensing Board Members,

I'm writing to you in regards to the proposed ethics rule applicable to the sales receipt for hearing aid purchases. I strongly support consumer education for hearing aid consumers at the point of sale so that they can be informed and assist in the selection of a telecoil equipped hearing aid and learn how to use it. I am in agreement with the precise language suggestions made by the Committee for Communication Access in New Mexico and urge you to adopt their recommended language.

My story - I am an advocate for people with hearing loss. I am also a person with a hearing loss. I require equal access as provided by the ADA in every setting. All public places that fall under the ADA required communication access for people with hearing loss. I am a person who wears a hearing aid and a cochlear implant. I cannot use headsets and earbuds. I can use a personal hearing loop (neck loop) that works with and requires telecoil. My hearing aid and my cochlear implant have a telecoil.

As an advocate, I have discovered that the majority of hearing aid wearers have not been informed about telecoils or have no awareness that they may have one and, therefore, cannot use ADA mandated accommodations. Hearing aids are a significant investment and consumers depend on hearing aid providers to prepare them for every possible hearing situation. Telecoils are a part of communication access under the ADA.

The suggested requirement, if passed, will assist consumers in making the best choice for them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Toni Barrient'.

Toni Barrient , Board Trustee
Hearing Loss Association of America, California State Association