

Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 917 Health Occupations - Practice Audiology – Definition  
Dr. Alicia Spoor, Audiologist Oral Testimony  
Position: UNFAVORABLE

Madam Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Alicia Spoor, and I am a full-time practicing Doctor of Audiology in Howard County and a private practice, small business owner, I am here in strong opposition of SB 917.

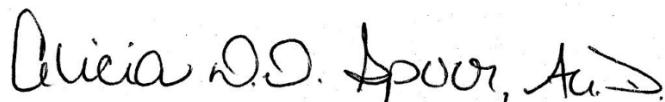
The debate of audiologists conducting health screenings is now in year three. As a participating Medicare provider and having the advice of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Speech-Language Pathologists, & Music Therapists (BoE) legal counsel, I have been providing health screenings to patients, when appropriate and applicable since 2016.

This year (2026), the American Medical Association (AMA) released 12 new audiology codes. The press release<sup>1</sup> comments ‘The patient-centered approaches include assessing visual, dexterity, and psychological factors’. These health screenings expand beyond the auditory and vestibular (hearing and balance) systems.

The national association, AMA, recognizes that doctors of audiology can conduct health screenings by codifying them in billing codes. The physician associations in Maryland should follow their national associations lead and not prohibit audiologists from providing patient-centered healthcare.

The practice of audiology Statute language should remain ‘conducting health screenings’ to allow audiologists the ability to use their didactic and clinical expertise and care for patients are the highest level possible. I urge an unfavorable report on SB 917.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia D.D. Spoor, Au.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alicia D.D. Spoor, Au.D.  
Doctor of Audiology

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/ama-press-releases/ama-releases-cpt-2026-code-set>