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Late Testimony

February 5, 2023

Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
House Health & Government Operation Committee
Taylor House Office Bldg., Room 241
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB401 Practice Audiology –Definition
Position: SUPPORT

Madam Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Ariana Kelly, and Committee Members:

I am writing in regards to a recent ruling by the FDA that has created a new category of hearing aids, classifying them as “prescription” instead of “restricted”.

This classification came about as part of the FDA’s recently passed ruling for the sale of Over The Counter (OTC) hearing aids. The new “prescription” hearing aids are the exact same “restricted” hearing aids that I have been fitting for over ten years.

The OTC ruling was passed to allow the treatment of hearing loss in a more affordable manner and to increase the ease of access to such treatment. Unfortunately, for those that fall outside of the recommended fitting range for these OTC devices, the FDA’s ruling has actually made treating hearing loss more difficult for those needing “prescription” devices.

I am asking for your support of Bill HB401, allowing Audiologists to “prescribe” or write a “prescription” for the sale of “Prescription” hearing aids, so that audiologists can continue to treat the patients we have been serving for years. Not passing this bill will only create additional barriers for Maryland residents who suffer from significant hearing impairment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy Lemley', written over a horizontal line.

Chrissy Lemley, Au.D., CCC-A, F-AAA
Board Certified Audiologist