



March 2, 2023

Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair
Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for HB925 with Amendments

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am Chief Audiology Officer for Miracle Ear, Inc. Miracle-Ear is a hearing aid retailer with 18 clinics in Maryland that are all owned and operated by independent, small business owners. Miracle-Ear believes that patient safety, satisfaction, and access are of paramount importance in helping individuals address their hearing needs.

We write in support of HB 925 with amendments, which would expand the list of tax-exempt items with regards to hearing aids to include among other things, custom-made earmold, battery or battery charger, frequency modulated transmitter and receiver, hearing aid supply (i.e., items that are essential to function of the hearing aids), and hearing aid accessories.

Hearing aids have been tax-exempt for decades; however, as of 2020, Maryland started modernizing the tax-exempt list to only include items that are used with today's hearing aid technology. HB 925 includes items that are the basic components required for the function of a hearing aid, such as batteries or a battery charger, hearing aid supply or highly recommended to ensure that the hearing aid functions in its optimal capacity, such as custom ear mold, frequency modulated transmitter and receiver, and hearing aid accessories. As such, these items are consistently used with today's modern hearing aid technologies. Consumers must have access to these items without having to pay an additional tax.

Therefore, we urge the committee to pass HB 925 in its entirety.

Please know I am available at (763) 710-1830 to answer any questions you or your policy staff may have regarding the concerns expressed herein.

Respectively,

Thomas J. Tedeschi

Dr. Thomas J. Tedeschi, AuD., FNAP
Chief Audiology Officer
Miracle-Ear, Inc.