

Call to Action: Contact Your Senators and Representative!

Calling individuals who care about hearing healthcare! Legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House that would:

- Direct the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to create an over-the-counter classification of hearing aids that requires no professional involvement, despite the lack of evidence showing consumers can properly self-diagnose, self-treat and self-manage hearing loss
- Direct the FDA to consider and rule on whether over-the-counter hearing aids should bypass existing, critical safety and efficacy standards and processes
- Prohibit states from creating any consumer protection laws related to over-the-counter hearing aids

Passage of this bill would:

- Eliminate important consumer protections currently afforded to all hearing aid purchasers
- Allow unlicensed and incompetent salespeople to sell hearing aids, thereby eroding consumer trust, increasing the risks of poor results and fraud, and driving up confusion
- Diminish the public perception of the tremendous value of hearing aids to health outcomes
- Decrease hearing aid use and satisfaction rates
- Rely on individuals to properly self-diagnose and self-manage their hearing loss, which can lead to missed medical diagnosis, improper hearing assessments, and purchasing hearing devices when they may have little to no benefit to the consumer
- Eliminate critical opportunities for medical referral for co-morbidities and other conditions afforded patients through an in-person evaluation by a licensed hearing care professional

Evidence shows that when hearing aids are available over-the-counter satisfaction rates go down. That leads to an inaccurate public perception that hearing aids don't work, and results in lower overall hearing aid adoption and use (JapanTrak, 2015). What drives satisfaction and optimizes outcomes? Professional and individualized hearing aids and fittings, tests that verify the accuracy of the hearing aid fit, and ongoing counseling and follow up care all determine a patient's success with hearing aids (MarkeTrak, VIII and IX).

**Call Your Members of Congress via the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121
or email them via: <http://bit.ly/2mV0K9Z>.**

Please tell your Elected Officials (in your own words):

- You oppose S.670/H.R.1652, the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act
- Appropriate treatment with hearing aids requires - by necessity - the involvement of a licensed hearing aid professional
- Share any experiences you've had with an over-the-counter hearing device that either simply didn't meet your needs or delayed appropriate medical care
- Share the value that your licensed hearing aid professional has contributed to your hearing journey

Thank you for your help! With questions, contact Beauport Hearing Care at 978-525-2300.