



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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August 19, 2010

The Honorable Edward E. Kaufman
383 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act [S. 1019]


Dear Senator Kaufman:

I write on behalf of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) to encourage you to endorse and become a co-sponsor of the Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act. S. 1019 amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow individual taxpayers an income tax credit of up to \$500 for the purchase of a hearing aid for the use of the taxpayer or a dependent.

SCPD endorses the proposed legislation since one in every ten Americans has a hearing loss. As baby boomers reach retirement age starting in 2010, this number is expected to rapidly climb and nearly double by the year 2030. In addition, the prevalence of hearing loss increases with age, up to 1 in 3 over age 65. Most hearing losses develop over a period of 25 to 30 years. Also, among seniors, hearing loss is the third most prevalent, but treatable disabling condition, behind arthritis and hypertension. Finally, while the vast majority of Americans (95%) with hearing loss could be successfully treated with hearing aids, only 25 % (6.35 million individuals) currently use them. Only 5% of hearing loss in adults can be improved through medical or surgical treatment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

Cc: Council on Deaf & Hard of Hearing Equality
Developmental Disabilities Council
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens

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