[To be placed on state academy/organization letterhead]

The Honorable Mike Ross
U.S. House of Representatives
2436 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Menendez
U.S. Senate
528 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

[Date]

Dear Representative Ross and Senator Menendez:

On behalf of the XXX members of the [insert state here] Academy of Audiology, I write to thank you for your sponsorship and introduction of the Medicare Hearing Health Care Enhancement Act (H.R.2140/S.3242). Our Academy enthusiastically endorses this bill that would eliminate the need for Medicare patients to obtain a physician referral prior to visiting an audiologist for an exam.

We believe, as you do, that Medicare beneficiaries deserve the same access to quality hearing health care afforded to our nation’s veterans, through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), as well as members of Congress and federal employees through the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). As you know, the Department of Veterans Affairs has allowed veterans who have completed the necessary requirements to establish eligibility for healthcare services, to directly access an audiologist since 1992. The VA has demonstrated that direct access to audiology services provides high-quality hearing health care that is cost effective.

H.R.2140/S.3242 would provide easier and more efficient avenues of evaluation and treatment for Medicare beneficiaries with audio/vestibular disorders. The [insert state here] Academy of Audiology commends you in this effort.

Thank you for your work to improve access to quality hearing health care for our patients.

Respectfully,