

	DIRECT ACCESS (H.R. 4035)	18 x 18 Proposal	COMPREHENSIVE AUDIOLOGY MEDICARE BENEFIT (H.R. 2330)
WHAT IT IS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates the physician order requirement for diagnostic hearing and balance tests that are currently covered under the Medicare benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates the physician order requirement to receive coverage of medically necessary, covered audiology and vestibular services under the Medicare benefit Allows audiologists to be reimbursed by Medicare for the full scope of audiology and vestibular care as dictated by educational requirements and competencies, and as allowed by state licensure Includes audiologists among the list of eligible providers who may opt-out of Medicare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows audiologists to be reimbursed by Medicare for the full scope of audiology and vestibular care as dictated by educational requirements and competencies and as allowed by state licensure
BENEFITS & STRATEGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves access to audiologists for Medicare beneficiaries Greater professional autonomy for audiologists Singularly-focused platform favored by policymakers on Capitol Hill Evidence supports significant cost-savings, an extremely important consideration for the budget-conscious federal government Continuity of a legislative initiative demonstrates a mature and respected presence on Capitol Hill and a sound and calculated advocacy plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves access to audiologists for Medicare beneficiaries Greater professional autonomy for audiologists Expansion of covered services under Medicare Comprehensive approach combines LLP status, Direct Access, and expanded benefits into one legislative initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of covered services under Medicare
ACADEMY ANALYSIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMS will likely develop stricter coverage policies to prevent over-utilization and improper billing Audiologists will have greater responsibility in demonstrating medical necessity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMS will likely develop stricter coverage policies to prevent over-utilization and improper billing Audiologists will have greater responsibility in demonstrating medical necessity Expansion of Medicare covered services will likely lower overall reimbursement rates, including rates for services currently covered Expansive legislation is subject to greater opposition by physician groups High costs associated with this legislation present greater challenges for adoption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMS will likely develop stricter coverage policies to prevent over-utilization and improper billing A plan of care approved by a physician is necessary for Medicare reimbursement of treatment and rehabilitative services Expansion of Medicare covered services will likely lower overall reimbursement rates, including rates for services currently covered Physicians will continue to determine medical necessity for audiology services High costs associated with this legislation present greater challenges for adoption