



June 30, 2013

American Academy of Audiology  
Attn: Deborah L. Carlson, PhD  
11480 Commerce Park Drive  
Suite 220  
Reston, VA 20191

Dear President Carlson and Board of Directors:

On behalf of the members of the Arkansas Academy of Audiology, this letter is sent to the American Academy of Audiology in support of the Audiology Direct Access initiative. ARAA enthusiastically endorses this policy that would eliminate the need for Medicare patients to obtain a physician order prior to visiting an audiologist for diagnostic hearing and balance testing. We continue to support affording Medicare beneficiaries the same access to quality diagnostic audiology services currently enjoyed by our nation's veterans, military, members of Congress and federal employees through the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP).

While the Arkansas Academy recognizes this legislation has not yet been reintroduced in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, we wanted the Academy Board to know that we fully support this initiative. We will encourage our individual members to become involved in grassroots advocacy when this bill is introduced.

Thank you for your continued dedication to improving access to quality audiologic care for our patients and your efforts to advance the profession.

Sincerely,

Lisa Christensen, Au.D.  
Founding President, Arkansas Academy of Audiology  
On Behalf of the Arkansas Academy Board of Directors