

**Subject: Support Personnel in Audiology**

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1 Whereas, audiologists are licensed with a defined scope of practice in all fifty states and the  
2 District of Columbia as independent healthcare providers for services relating to the hearing and  
3 vestibular/balance systems, and  
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5 Whereas, approximately 36 million American adults report some degree of hearing loss with  
6 that number expected to increase significantly as the Baby Boomer generation ages, and  
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8 Whereas, audiologists want to ensure the accessibility and affordability of high-quality audiologic  
9 services to meet the expanding needs of patients requiring care for hearing and vestibular/balance  
10 disorders, and  
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12 Whereas, audiologists uphold similar standards of professional development as physicians and  
13 other non-physician healthcare providers, and absorb the costs associated with the establishment  
14 and maintenance of a clinical practice, including its facilities, equipment, and support staff, and  
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16 Whereas, audiologist assistants are important to the sustainability of the profession of audiology,  
17 and can provide valuable support to audiologists in the delivery of quality and cost-effective  
18 services to patients, and  
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20 Whereas, audiologist assistants can improve access to patient care by increasing availability of  
21 audiologic services; increasing productivity by reducing wait times and enhancing patient  
22 satisfaction; and reducing costs by enabling assistants to perform tasks that do not require the  
23 skills of a licensed audiologist, and  
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25 Whereas, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Military utilize audiologist assistants  
26 effectively to improve access to and quality of care, and  
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28 Whereas, twenty-three states currently have a provision in state statutes to define the practice of  
29 audiology assistants, and  
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31 Whereas, licensed audiologists, by virtue of their education and training, are the appropriate and  
32 only qualified professionals to supervise and train audiologist assistants, and  
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34 Whereas, audiologist assistants would, at a minimum, possess a high school diploma or  
35 equivalent; and complete competency-based training or a formal audiologist assistant training  
36 program (as appropriate and consistent with state rules and regulations), and  
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38 Whereas, the audiologist who employs and/or supervises audiologist assistants shall maintain  
39 legal and ethical responsibility for all services provided by the assistant, and shall not delegate any  
40 service requiring professional competence to unqualified persons.

41 RESOLVED, the American Academy of Audiology supports the appropriate use and supervision  
42 of audiologist assistants to position the profession of audiology to meet the expanding needs for  
43 patient care in a cost-effective manner, and without compromise to said patient care.  
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