



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act

Become an Original Cosponsor - Deadline: Thurs. March 17, 2011 at COB.

Dear Colleague,

Please join us as an original cosponsor of the **Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act**. This bill provides a non-refundable \$500 tax credit for the purchase of hearing aids, subject to an upper income eligibility cap, for people age 55 and older and for children and other dependents. **The bill text is identical to H.R. 1646, which attracted bipartisan support from 130 cosponsors in the 111th Congress.**

As you may know, most health insurance plans exclude coverage for hearing aid purchases. For example, hearing aids are excluded from Medicare coverage, and 61 percent of all hearing aid purchases involve no third-party payment.

The high cost of today's advanced hearing aids is a significant barrier to purchase for many Americans. According to the Better Hearing Institute, the average cost for a hearing aid is more than \$1,675 per ear including fitting, evaluation and post-fitting treatment, and nearly 80% of people require two devices. Approximately 68 percent of people with hearing loss cite financial constraints as the primary reason for not using a hearing aid.

The failure to address hearing loss with a hearing aid is a serious problem for millions of Americans, which can lead to further hearing loss if left untreated. The Better Hearing Institute estimates that 95 percent of people with hearing loss could be successfully treated with hearing aids, although only about 25 percent of people with hearing loss actually seek treatment.

The Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit is a measured and effective way to make treatment more accessible for older adults and children suffering from hearing loss.

To join us as an original co-sponsor, or if you have any questions, please contact Jacob Parker with Rep. Latham at x6-5522 (jacob.parker@mail.house.gov) or Michael Grogan with Rep. McCarthy x5-5516 (michael.grogan@mail.house.gov).


TOM LATHAM
Member of Congress


CAROLYN MCCARTHY
Member of Congress