

HB 1609

Dear Pennsylvania audiologists, speech pathologists, students, physicians, hearing instrument specialists, nurses, advanced practitioners, families, friends, and all other Pennsylvania humans.

THIS IS IMPORTANT

WHAT:	Adult hearing aid coverage has been lacking from basic insurance plans, and third parties are not doing the trick. Professionally fit and maintained hearing aids not only allow access to sound but address a greater medical concern. Untreated hearing loss is related to faster cognitive decline*. Therefore, treating hearing loss treats the WHOLE person. Providing appropriate hearing aid coverage is an actionable way to improve cognitive health and overall quality of life.
WHO:	We ALL need to support H.B 1609 . For our patients. For our parents. For our loved ones. For our professions. For our own health.
WHY:	Not surprisingly, insurances are pushing back against legislation to require adult HA coverage. This bill needs more support, and this starts with you.
HOW:	Connect with your representative . Consider adding the line, "I'd be happy to meet and discuss in person for more information." If you meet with your representative, PAA will be glad to prepare you. Urge your family and friends to do the same.
BOTTOM LINE:	While we would love your membership , that is not required for this need that transcends audiology.



Thank you for your support,

Your Pennsylvania Academy of Audiology Governmental Affairs Team

*[Mayo Clinic Minute: How hearing affects your brain health - Mayo Clinic News Network](#)

*[Hearing Loss and the Dementia Connection | Johns Hopkins | Bloomberg School of Public Health \(jhu.edu\)](#)

*[Hearing Loss and Cognition: What We Know and Where We Need to Go - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)