

January 29, 2019

Dear Hearing Care Provider,

Thank you for taking such good care of my ears and for being such an important part of my healthcare team.

I'm writing in hopes you'll support a Washington State bill that will help patients like me. The Telecoil-Bluetooth Consumer Education Bills (HB 1078/SB 5210) will ensure that hearing care professionals can provide valuable information to help us buy the best hearing aids for our needs.

Even though hearing aids have come a long way, people with hearing loss are still missing out on church services; plays and musicals at places like the 5th Avenue, Village Theatre, and the Seattle Repertory Theatre; live entertainment at the Federal Way Performing Arts & Events Center; and civic discussions at the Seattle and King County Council meetings. Without telecoils and telecoil know-how, people with hearing aids can't connect effectively to assistive listening systems like hearing loops in their favorite public places.

I understand that your time with us is limited during our office visits. These bills will help prioritize the very information that consumers need, but don't always receive. As many as two-thirds of patients were not told about their telecoils before they invested in hearing aids, according to a recent survey. Empowered by telecoil information, people can use the full functionality of their hearing aids, increasing the chances their expensive hearing aids will be in their ears, not tossed in drawers at home.

Will you take a moment to read about the bill and consider supporting it? You can read more here:

[HB 1078](#)

[SB 5210](#)

The bill is supported by the Washington State ODHH, and is believed to be a no-cost bill.

Thank you again for all you do to help us hear better and live independently and well with our hearing loss.

Sincerely,