Hello, my name is Susan Smith, and I’m a constituent in the 45th District.

I’d like to voice my support for the Telecoil-Bluetooth Consumer Education Bill (SB 5210 and its companion House Bill 1078).

Buying hearing aids is confusing, with lots of different models and options available, and they can cost as much as several thousand dollars each.

Too many people aren’t told about telecoils when they buy their hearing aids—-as many as two thirds of people in one recent survey.

Without telecoils, people with hearing loss can’t wirelessly connect to public assistive listening systems.

These public assistive listening systems are mandated by the ADA, and venues invest thousands of dollars to install and maintain them.

Telecoils are the bridge between hearing aids and loop, FM, and Infrared assistive listening systems.

Most important, telecoils can help people with hearing loss live, work, and travel independently and equally, as others do.

With telecoils, people can connect to Seattle and King County Council meetings, the Seattle Rep theatre, Town Hall Seattle, senior centers, and dozens of houses of worship, among other spaces.

I’d like to urge you to take this step to empower and help people with hearing loss.