



The Florida Hearing Society's Position on Florida Senate Bill 126 and House Bill 101

The Florida Hearing Society opposed SB126 and continues to oppose HB 101 due to safety concerns for the patient, the lack of involvement of a licensed professional, and the standard we believe is required for prescription hearing aids.

A Few of Our Clinical Concerns:

1. **Elimination of Mandatory Testing:** SB126 does not require any testing prior to the mailing or distribution of prescription hearing aids to the ultimate consumer. The tests would include the requirement for comprehensive audiological evaluations. These evaluations are critical for accurately diagnosing the type and degree of hearing loss, identifying underlying medical conditions, and determining the most appropriate treatment. Without mandatory testing first, there is a risk of misdiagnosis or overlooking conditions that may require medical intervention, potentially leading to inadequate or harmful treatment.
2. **Certified Testing Rooms:** SB126 and HB101 do not require the testing be performed in a certified testing room with certified testing equipment. This impacts the quality of the hearing test and can negatively affect the results.
3. **Remote Dispensing Risks:** The proposed legislation permits the sale and distribution of prescription hearing aids through the mail, in conjunction with telehealth appointments. While telehealth can enhance accessibility, it does not adequately replace in-person assessments. Physical examinations including otoscopy and real-ear measurements conducted during in-person visits are vital to ensure devices are correctly fitted and programmed to the individual's specific hearing loss. Remote dispensing could compromise the effectiveness of the hearing aid and the overall satisfaction of the patient.
4. **Potential for Reduced Follow-Up Care:** In-person consultations facilitate ongoing patient education, counseling, and follow-up care, which are essential components of audiological treatment. The shift toward remote dispensing models may diminish these interactions, potentially leading to decreased patient adherence, unresolved issues with device usage, and lower overall treatment outcomes.

The FHS believes that enacting HB 101 and SB 126 in their current forms would compromise the current safety standards in Florida statute for the most vulnerable of our population. We believe the standard of care as recognized by the FDA require a licensed professional to be involved in the fitting and dispensing of prescription hearing aids. We advocate for maintaining rigorous standards that include in-person evaluations, dispensing and fittings by licensed professionals to ensure safe and effective treatment for all patients.

Since the release of the initial bills, the FHS has worked with all stakeholders to ensure that hearing aid specialist are involved in the dispensing of prescription hearing aids in Florida.

Most Sincerely,

Cameron G. Yordon, HAS, BC-HIS

President

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The Board of Directors

Your Florida Hearing Society

Further updates will be available on our website@ www.floridahearingsociety.com

You can help defend your license by joining the Florida Hearing Society there or donating to our PAC. All funds are used to help defend your career regardless of your licensure type or association affiliation.