

Submitter: Sue Prichard  
On Behalf Of: myself  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB943

Hello,

I am a patient of excellent audiologists in Eugene, Oregon. While it is a challenge for me to comment on this bill because I am not an audiology professional, as a patient, I would want my audiology team to be able to practice in the ways that best suit their needs, and allow them to provide the best care for their patients. I want to add a completely new topic to the agenda, however. I feel we are amiss in not establishing a law that requires audiologists and hearing aid dispensers to both educate their patients about and equip their patients for ADA accessibility. This means equipping every patient's hearing devices with telecoils. Yes, Auracast will eventually be available, but it will be many years before facilities and all devices are equipped. Meanwhile, with telecoils in our hearing devices, we are ADA access ready....we can use hearing loops, FM systems and infrared systems. Without telecoils, extra (often poorly maintained) equipment is necessary. It is in patients best interest to be taught that hearing aids are necessary but not sufficient. There are many situations where hearing aids alone are not enough. Having direct access to assistive listening systems gives patients the opportunity to hear as well as others do. Please consider including this concept in this legislation. Thank you.