

October 3, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: PAA in support of H.R. 4056/ S. 2446 *The Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act of 2019*

Dear Representative Pelosi and Senator McConnell,

The Pennsylvania Academy of Audiology (PAA) enthusiastically endorses *The Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act of 2019 (H.R. 4056/S. 2446)*, recently introduced in both chambers of the 116th Congress. *The Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act* will make critical updates to Medicare coverage policies, so that they align with evidence-based practices in the provision of hearing and balance health care services. PAA believes that enactment of this legislation is necessary to assure Medicare beneficiaries the most efficient access to audiologic care, and to efficiently deploy audiologists to provide the Medicare-covered diagnostic and treatment services that correspond to their scope of practice, which is consistent with other federal programs including Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan, Medicare Advantage (Part C), the U.S. Military, and the Veterans Health Administration.

PAA applauds the strong bipartisan support that *The Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act* has already received in Congress, as well as the collective endorsements the legislation has garnered from national organizations including the Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA), the American Academy of Audiology (AAA), the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), and their respective members.

Enactment of *the Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act* will improve the delivery of hearing and balance care for Medicare patients, while helping to address the shortage of available primary care providers. This is particularly important as hearing loss is the third most common chronic condition for adults over 65 years of age (behind only hypertension and arthritis), and as 10,000 Americans become Medicare-eligible each day. PAA, its Board of Directors, and audiologists throughout Pennsylvania, respectfully request your commitment to bring H.R. 4056/S. 2446 to a vote in the U.S House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Please contact me or Stephanie Czuhajewski at sczuhajewski@audiologist.org for more information about the merits of *the Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act*, or if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

Maryann M. Mikanduz AuD
President Pennsylvania Academy of Audiology

Cc: The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce