



Good morning, I am emailing you this morning to inform you about an upcoming KSHA Bill (HB 2195). This bill proposed would require the Kansas Board of Hearing Aid Examiners (KBHAE) to be under the responsibility of KDADS (Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services). This concept would affect hundreds of consumers and hearing aid providers.

KBHAE has been protecting consumers, upholding licenses and handling consumer complaints since 1968. The KBHAE has been self-funded since its creation almost 50 years ago. This is important because KBHAE going under KDADS would cost the state more money. The main purpose of KBHAE is to ensure the licenses all hearing aid specialist and audiologists, who dispense hearing aids. The annual membership fees associated with joining KBHAE are \$60. If there is a consumer complaint KBHAE handles the complaint within 1 to 2 days. If additional consideration is required, then the complaint goes to the Attorney General Office in a timely manner. Under KDADS complaints are not handled quickly and efficiently.

This bill could potentially put restrictions to entry into our profession. The livelihood of the traditional hearing aid specialists could be at risk. The KBHAE board is a mix of audiologists and hearing aid specialists. This action could reduce access to hearing care in the rural areas of our state. The Veterans Choice program allows hearing aid specialists to provide care to rural Kansans. This action could reduce access to hearing aids for our veterans.

Our office is a third generational business. We have been in Topeka since 1946. Our office has two traditional hearing aid specialists. We have over 35 years of experience each. My daughter recently join our practice as our Doctor of Audiology.

In conclusion, I am not sure what the advantage to the state or consumers is to put KBHAE under KDADS. I sure see a lot of disadvantages to dissolving KBHAE and putting it under KDADS. At a time, when budgets are so tight going under KDADS would cost the state more money.

Thank you for taking your time to read this,

Harry Hilderman and Brad Hilderman

Hearing Instrument Specialists
Professional Hearing Aid Associates
5101 SW 21st Street Suite 100
Topeka, Kansas 66604