

## **Urgent Call to Action: October 8, 2010**

*Gov. Christie's report suggests the Speech Pathology and Audiology Board assume the responsibility for regulating hearing aid dispensers*

On September 10, NJ Governor Chris Christie released a 157-page report proposing elimination and consolidation of many of the state's boards and committees.

This report includes proposing the Speech Pathology and Audiology Board assume the responsibility for regulating hearing aid dispensers.

The Association strongly encourages all its members to read the proposal, on page 101-102 here: [http://www.nj.gov/governor/news/reports/pdf/20100909\\_E015DeptRecommendations.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/governor/news/reports/pdf/20100909_E015DeptRecommendations.pdf)

While this is in the early stages, the Association finds the wording very troubling. It seems to be deeply biased and disparaging against hearing aid dispensers, and contains many distortions, omissions, and errors.

The Board of Trustees has been working diligently with ABS to develop a position and strategy to address this issue. We are deeply concerned that the interests of all hearing health professionals be represented.

There is no other way to put it: **we need more Association members and more support for HEPAC**. As this proposal moves forward, the Association will be the only advocate for all hearing health professionals. This is a call to action to make a donation to HEPAC and to recruit as many of your colleagues as you can to join the Association. The future of your practice and credentials may be in the balance.

## **Proposed Changes to Bylaws to be put to Members' vote – November 2010**

*Changes would be voted upon at November 2010's general membership meeting*

In addition to the election slate for November's general membership meeting, Association members should be on the lookout for a proposal from the Board of Trustees. The trustees are proposing, starting next year, to change the General Membership Meeting (including election of trustees and officers) to coincide with the Association Convention.

The Trustees believe that doing so would:

- Attract more Members to the Association meeting/election
- Expose new potential members to the Association and increase new memberships
- Increase attendance to the convention/continuing education conference

**The 2010 annual General Membership Meeting will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Jamesburg, NJ at 4:30PM November 17, 2010. We encourage all members to attend.**

## **REGULATORY NEWS – October 2010**

**The State of New Jersey Audiology And Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Committee has enacted new regulations expanding audiologists' scope of practice to include cerumen management.**

A copy of the new regulations can be found on the web at:

[http://www.state.nj.us/oag/ca/aud/NJAC13\\_44c\\_7\\_1a.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/oag/ca/aud/NJAC13_44c_7_1a.pdf)

Note that there are training requirements that must be met before performing cerumen management. The original proposal would have required observing 30 procedures by a physician, and then 30 physician-supervised procedures, before an audiologist would be allowed to remove cerumen independently.

Through the Association's efforts with our lobbyists, these requirements were changed to a far more reasonable six observations and six supervised cerumen removal procedures before independently performing cerumen management.

Additionally, the original proposal required that the supervision be done only by a physician. The Association recognized that it may be difficult for audiologists in private practice to arrange observation and supervision with physicians. After asserting our position, the new regulations allow that the supervision can be done under another audiologist.

**Legislative watch is probably the single most important benefit to members of the Association.**

We are dedicated to protecting the interests of you, your practice, and the people you serve. As illustrated here, other powerful interests may impose their agendas upon us if we do not remain strong. NJAHHP is the only professional association protecting the interest of all hearing health professionals in New Jersey. **Your support of the Association and HEPAC is key to protecting your interests in Trenton.**

## **Legislative Call to Action: Hearing Aid Tax Credit (H.R. 1646/S. 1019) - September 2010**

When Congress returns from summer recess in mid-September, the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance will begin reviewing tax legislation. We need your help to ensure that the Hearing Aid Tax Credit (H.R. 1646/S. 1019) gains favorable support!

This important measure would help make hearing aids more affordable to the millions of Americans that need them by providing a tax credit of up to \$500 per hearing aid, once every five years. We need your help to get this bill on the agenda and through Congress!

[Details about the Call to Action](#) [link to Call to Action pdf](#)

[Sample Letter to Congressional Delegates](#) [link to Sample letter pdf](#)

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[NJ Congressional Delegation Contact List \(Sept. 2010\)](#) [link to attached pdf](#)

### **New Jersey State Legislators**

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