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KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Michele Brown, Esq.  
Appointments Counsel to the Governor  
  
Deborah L. Gramiccioni, Esq. ✓  
Director, Governor's Authorities Unit

**FROM:** Gayl R. Mazuco, AAG *grm*  
Director, Legal Affairs and Employee Relations

**DATE:** July 12, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Executive Order 15

Attached for your review and consideration is the Report and Recommendations of the Department of Law and Public Safety pursuant to Executive Order 15.

GRM:ml

Enclosure

c: Attorney General Dow  
First Assistant Attorney General Kwon  
Executive Assistant Attorney General Ferzan  
Chief of Staff Edwards  
Administrator Foster  
Deputy Administrator Haley

**Audiology and Speech Language Pathology (4,796) and Hearing Aid Dispenser**

**Merger (592)**

Audiologist and Speech Language Pathologists are regulated by a board established by P.L. 1983, c. 420 (N.J.S.A. 45:38-3). Audiologists are trained to test hearing and to fit hearing aids. Since 1993 their Masters degree education includes the testing and fitting of hearing aids and since 2007, they have been required to have a doctorate degree. Thus their training is provided in an academic setting and includes didactic and practical experience with patients specific to hearing aid testing and fitting. They take a national audiology examination. In contrast hearing aid dispensers, licensed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:9A- 1 (P.L. 1973, c. 19) by a committee under the Board of Medical Examiners, obtain an education which is not structured, is dependent on a relationship between an applicant and a sponsor (who usually hires the individual once licensed) and involves an emphasis on sales techniques. There are no academic degree programs in New Jersey specific to a hearing aid dispensers. No college education is required. At present there are only 590 active hearing aid dispensers. Over the last two years the Hearing Aid Dispensers Committee received only 54 complaints -- a third of which related to advertising complaints. The responsibility for regulating hearing aid dispensers would probably be more logically assumed by the Audiology and Speech Language Pathologists Board.