

**AUGUST 5, 2016**

*This is a weekly report from the HLAA national office in Bethesda, Maryland. Please also sign up for the [HLAA e-News](#) where even more news is published.*

## **ADVOCACY**

### **FCC Adopts Landmark Agreement to Improve Access to Hearing Aid Compatible Cell Phones and Wireless Devices**

On August 4, 2016 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved a Report and Order that will change the scope of the rules and requirements for hearing aid compatible (HAC) cell phones and wireless devices. HLAA, in collaboration with the wireless industry and other consumer groups, submitted a [consensus letter](#) to the FCC in November 2015 outlining a path forward toward the goal of making all cell phones and wireless devices hearing aid compatible within eight years. The FCC agreed to require that 66 percent of devices are compatible within two years and 85 percent are compatible within five years. The Commission stated, “[FCC] reconfirms its commitment to pursuing 100 percent compatibility within eight years.” This agreement means greater choice in wireless phone selection for those with hearing aids or cochlear implants than what is currently available.

HLAA Executive Director Barbara Kelley and Director of Public Policy Lise Hamlin attended the meeting at the FCC for the historic event. Barbara commented, “We’ve been talking about hearing aid compatible phones since the 1970s and are likely to be talking about them for a long time due to innovations in technology. You can be sure that HLAA will be there every step of the way for our members.”

HLAA, along with representatives from other consumer organizations, wireless device manufacturers, and wireless service providers, [issued a joint statement](#) regarding the agreement. You can also read the FCC press release [here](#).

## **WALK4HEARING**

### **The Fall Walks Are Upon Us!**

August has rolled around and summer is almost over. School is starting soon and it’s almost time to put away the sandals and break out the walking shoes! With 14 Walks taking place around the country this fall, we hope you will join us to help raise awareness of hearing loss in both your local community and nationwide. Make a difference by registering today for the [Walk4Hearing](#) in a city near you.

### **Thank You Thursday is Here!**

*Thank You Thursday* is our way to recognize, thank, and spotlight all those who have made the Walk4Hearing such a success. Every Thursday on the Walk4Hearing [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) ([#ThankYouThursday](#)) pages we will feature sponsors, volunteers, or anyone who has gone above and beyond for the Walk4Hearing. The support and dedication we



receive from the community is second-to-none; our achievements are yours. If you know of someone who is deserving of such recognition for their hard work and dedication, please email [Ann Rancourt](mailto:Ann.Rancourt@hlaa.org), the national Walk4Hearing coordinator.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

### **Are You Following HLAA on Social Media?**

Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter!

- Follow Executive Director Barbara Kelley on Twitter [@BKelley\\_HLAA](https://twitter.com/BKelley_HLAA).
- Follow HLAA on Facebook at [facebook.com/HearingLossAssociation](https://facebook.com/HearingLossAssociation) and on Twitter [@HLAA](https://twitter.com/HLAA).
- Follow the Walk4Hearing on Facebook at [facebook.com/Walk4Hearing](https://facebook.com/Walk4Hearing) and on Twitter [@Walk4Hearing](https://twitter.com/Walk4Hearing).