

JULY 29, 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

Celebrating the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

We cannot let this week go by without recognizing the 26th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Signed by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990 (a whole generation ago!), the ADA offers protection to the more than 50 million Americans living with disabilities. It prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in such areas as employment, education, transportation, and in all public and private places open to the public. The purpose of the ADA is to ensure that those with disabilities are afforded the same rights and opportunities as everyone else.

Dana Frayne, a White House intern, wrote in [this week's White House blog](#)*:

My mom has difficulty hearing and recently returned to the workforce. As she is figuring out what she is passionate about, she has thought about becoming a teacher who works with children with disabilities or an administrative assistant. My mother is one of the smartest people that I know, but I think that it can be discouraging when people are often too quick to make assumptions about her competence when she is unable to hear everything that's going on in a conversation.

Learn more about the ADA on their [website](#).

*Fun fact: A picture from the 2015 ADA celebration at the White House is included in this blog. Lise Hamlin, director of public policy, was fortunate enough to attend the event. Can you spot her? (Hint: she's wearing pink and "hiding" behind her cell phone.)

FCC Meetings Held to Discuss Hearing Aid Compatible Cell Phones

Lise Hamlin, along with representatives from the hearing aid device and wireless industries, recently participated in meetings at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to support a [Consensus Proposal](#) for hearing aid compatibility with cell phones. The proposal, filed in November 2015, outlines a path for manufacturers and providers of cell phones and wireless devices to require that 100 percent of phones are hearing-aid-compatible.

The next Open Commission Meeting, set for August 4, includes consideration of a Report and Order that would implement changes to the scope of the wireless hearing aid compatibility rules, many of which are based on our consensus proposal. The meeting is open to the public. Sign language interpreters, open captioning, and assistive listening devices will be provided on site, and audio/video coverage of the meeting will be [broadcast live](#) with open captioning. More information on the meeting can be found [here](#).

CHAPTERS

Get Plugged-In To Chapter Success Stories!

In HLAA's **Spotlight on Chapters** we share stories about the amazing things chapters are doing that help them grow. We let everyone know about the innovative programs, awesome community outreach, and wildly successful events that have contributed to a chapter's success. Featured chapters will appear on the [Spotlight on Chapters](#) page of the HLAA website, in our monthly *HLAA e-News* and in [Hearing Loss Magazine](#).

For more information about Spotlight on Chapters contact [Valerie Stafford-Mallis](#), director of chapter development.

Not receiving the *HLAA e-News*? [Sign up now!](#) It's free, easy, and will keep you up to date on all the latest information related to hearing loss. HLAA publishes its *e-News* twice per month. *HLAA in Action* provides insight on what we are doing for you in regard to public policy. Get the inside story on meetings on Capitol Hill and legislative updates. In the second issue of the month you will find Spotlight on Chapters along with all the other chapter news, information on the [HLAA Convention](#), [Walk4Hearing](#), [upcoming webinars](#) and human-interest stories that speak to issues of hearing loss.

Don't wait...[sign up today](#) and get in on all the great things that are happening across HLAA!