

**APRIL 28, 2017**

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

## **NAS REPORT UPDATE**

### **National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to Hold Public Dissemination Meeting**

On Friday June 9, 2017, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will host a public dissemination meeting for the report [Hearing Health Care for Adults: Priorities for Improving Access and Affordability](#) at the Keck Center in Washington, DC. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time and last until approximately 3:30 p.m. CART and hearing loop accessibilities will be provided at this meeting.

You can find more information, including links to registration and the agenda for the meeting [here](#).

## **CHAPTERS**

### **Exciting Research Opportunity for Chapters!**

Seth J. Meyer, a Ph.D. candidate at Rutgers University, has asked for the help of HLAA chapters and state organizations to provide input for his dissertation on national nonprofit organizations and the interactions between their affiliates and the central office. We are excited that Seth reached out to us for the opportunity to be involved.

The study consists of two parts, an online survey and an optional interview. The interviews will be done via telephone or Skype, whichever the participant prefers. While interviews are optional, we encourage all of our chapter/state leaders and volunteers to take 20-30 minutes to complete the online survey.

After Seth completes his research he will provide a 3-5 page summary on his findings, available upon request. This could be a tremendously helpful resource to both our chapters and the national office, so we ask for your participation if at all possible! You can find the survey and Seth's letter of introduction [here](#) or a direct link to the survey [here](#).





# This Week in Bethesda

## HLAA2017 CONVENTION

### It's Not Too Late to Register!

Registration is open until **May 31**. Be sure to [register](#) if you haven't already! On-site registration will also be available.

### Interested in Volunteering at the Convention?

We are looking for volunteers to serve as workshop monitors, Convention ambassadors, extra muscle, and more! If you are interested in volunteering, email Niaz Siasi at [nsiasi@hearingloss.org](mailto:nsiasi@hearingloss.org).

### Start Planning Your Trip!

While you will be busy with Convention sessions and events, make sure to take some time to tour the city. Consider booking a guided tour with City Sights Tour Company! Listen Technologies will be providing assistive listening devices during selected guided tours. Visit the [Convention page](#) for more details on tours.

## ADVOCACY

### It's a Call to Action – Your Voice Matters!

The Hearing Loss Association of America has embarked on a campaign to support new legislation that, if passed, will change the face of hearing health care in America. And you can be part of it.

The Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017, led by U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), was introduced on March 21. The bipartisan legislation would make certain types of hearing aids available over the counter and remove unnecessary and burdensome requirements that currently create barriers for consumers who could benefit from hearing aids.

HLAA is asking for your help in sending Congress a message that passage of this bill would be life-changing for the millions of Americans who do not seek help for their hearing loss simply because they cannot afford to. We now have the power to influence Congress to change that. Contact your congressmen and let them know you support the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017. We have created a new section of our website dedicated to this issue. There is information there on how to contact your senator or representative, as well as sample letters you can use.

Every individual voice matters. And, as they say, there's strength in numbers. Along with all HLAA members, we are calling on all our chapters and state associations to mobilize and advocate for this groundbreaking legislation. Lise Hamlin, HLAA director of





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public policy, might reach out to you individually where we need to target specific legislators.

Executive Director Barbara Kelley said, "HLAA is the only one representing consumers on Capitol Hill. Every time we meet with the staff of a senator or representative, they are thankful we came to discuss the issues people with hearing loss have in getting affordable hearing health care. We are taken seriously and they are reaching out to us in addition to us reaching out to them. They have asked that we get our HLAA members in their congressional districts to write letters and take action. Over the next several weeks, Lise Hamlin will be reaching out to individuals and chapters where we need the most help. In the meantime, every voice matters. Please consider contacting your member of Congress. Thank you."

You can find more information – including information on how to contact Congress – at [hearingloss.org/content/call-to-action-otc](http://hearingloss.org/content/call-to-action-otc). If ever there was a time to get more involved, now is it!

## **HLAA Participates in Panel Discussion on Hearing Aid Compatibility**

Director of Public Policy Lise Hamlin represented HLAA on a panel discussion sponsored by CTIA titled "A New Era of Hearing Aid Compatibility." The panel was a presentation before the Federal Communications Bar Association. Other presenters on the panel included Karen Peltz Strauss, deputy bureau chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) at the Federal Communications Commission; Susan Bahr, an attorney at CGB; Dan Gilman, attorney advisor, Office of Policy Planning, Federal Trade Commission; Laura Stefani, counsel to the Hearing Industries Association; and Savannah Schaefer, senior manager, Government Affairs, Telecommunications Industry Association.

As the wireless industry rapidly evolves, manufacturers and service providers have worked to ensure their innovative products and services are accessible to all consumers, including people with disabilities. The program discussed recent accessibility actions by the Federal Communications Commission and the cooperative efforts of various industry and consumer groups to facilitate access to wireless products and services for people of all different abilities.



## HELPFUL RESOURCES

The [Guide for Effective Communication in Health Care](#) was created for patients, families, caregivers, all members of the health care team, administrators, and support staff. It provides information, resources, and tools to help improve communication. The Guide can help hospitals, facilities, and private offices follow federal, state and local laws, regulations, and health care standards, and allow patients to ask for and get the services they need.

## HLAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

[Jan Blustein, M.D., Ph.D.](#), a member of the HLAA Board of Trustees, was recently [featured in an article](#) for *Medical Xpress*, a web-based medical and health news service that is part of the Science X network. The article, "Few Studies Consider Hearing Loss When Assessing Communication with Physicians," discusses an investigation led by Drs. Blustein and Joshua Chodosh that was [recently published](#) in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. The investigation quantified the extent to which hearing loss is mentioned in studies of physician-patient communication with older patients, and the degree to which hearing loss is incorporated into analyses and findings.

On April 24, HLAA Board Member [KR Liu](#) was interviewed on Middle Tennessee State University's WMOT Radio to talk about over-the-counter hearing aids. Along with the interview, an article appeared on WMOT's website that quoted HLAA Board Member [Richard Einhorn](#). The article and transcript of the interview can be found [here](#).

