

JUNE 9, 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.

OVER-THE-COUNTER HEARING AID ACT OF 2017

Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017 Clears Another Hurdle

In a win for HLAA and supporters of [Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017](#), this week the House Energy and Commerce Committee voted 54-0 to approve a comprehensive Food and Drug Administration (FDA) bill that includes this groundbreaking legislation. The bill has now passed both the House and Senate Committees. It will be presented to the full House and Senate for a vote, which is anticipated to take place in the coming weeks.

Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids in the News

There have been several recent articles published by conservative media outlets that oppose the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act. However, [hotair.com](#), also a conservative outlet, has just published an article suggesting that conservatives might have been tricked into believing the bill is a bad idea. [Read the full story.](#)

(Note: HLAA does not affiliate with any particular political party or organization. In fact, the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act is bipartisan legislation. HLAA supports the bill simply because we believe it is in the best interests of consumers.)

HLAA2017 CONVENTION

Webinar: Ready, Get Set...!

Wednesday, June 14, 8 p.m. – 9 p.m. (EDT)

Whether you are new to HLAA Conventions or have been to many, join Nancy Macklin, director of external affairs and events, HLAA; Niaz Siasi, meeting planner, HLAA; and Deanna Baker, RMR, FAPR, realtime captioner and consultant, for a review of the official *HLAA2017 Convention Program and Exhibit Guide* and ask any questions you have about the Convention so you can say: Ready, Get Set, Go!

To join the webinar, go to the [Webinar Schedule page](#) and click on the **Join Webinar** button. (Note: There is a [series of steps required for first time attendees](#) to access Blackboard Collaborate. We recommend spending a few minutes in advance of the webinar to make sure you are able to access Blackboard Collaborate.)





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If you have any questions please email Nancy Macklin at nmacklin@hearingloss.org or 301.657.2248 Ext. 106.

HLAA2017 Convention App is Now Available

The mobile app for HLAA2017 Convention is now live! .When you set up your profile on the app you can create your own schedule, message other attendees, and best of all, have a chance to win prizes! Download the mobile app from the Apple Store, Google Play, BlackBerry World, and the Windows Phone Store. You can also access the app on any device that has an internet browser (such as smartphone, tablet, or Kindle) by going to eventmobi.com/hlaa2017.

HLAA2017 CONVENTION & WALK4HEARING

Join us on Thursday, June 22 at 10 a.m. when HLAA2017 Convention and the Walk4Hearing will come together in Salt Lake City to bring you a "mini" Walk4Hearing event. The 1.5 mile Walk begins at Little America Hotel and will take you on a scenic route along Main Street to Temple Square and ends at the Salt Palace Convention Center, where you can pick up your Convention registration badges, tickets, and more! Walkers will receive a special edition Walk4Hearing t-shirt (limited quantity) and bottled water. Come stretch out your legs and step up for people with hearing loss at this extra special mini-Walk4Hearing!

Mobile captioning will be available for pre-Walk speeches. Visit walk4hearing.org on your mobile device, go to "Walk Day CC" and find "HLAA2017 Convention Walk4Hearing," then click on "View Captions."

We want to send a big shout-out to **IntriCon** and **Hearing Help Express**, who "stepped up" to sponsor this event. Thank you – we couldn't do this without you!

If you have questions or need ADA accommodations email Ann Rancourt at arancourt@hearingloss.org or call 301.657.2248.

(Note: Convention attendees staying at the Radisson can take the Temple Square TRAX/Light Rail to Courthouse Station to get to Little America Hotel.)

WALK4HEARING

Are You up for the Challenge?

HLAA is kicking off its [#HearingLossChallenge](https://www.hearingloss.org/hearing-loss-challenge) to increase the visibility of hearing loss. Only people with hearing loss know what it's like to live in a world without sounds. With the #HearingLossChallenge we are giving people a chance to understand what that





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world is like. At upcoming Walk4Hearing events we will be giving out earplugs to people without hearing loss, allowing them to experience our world firsthand while walking to make a difference. Encourage friends and family at the Walk to take the #HearingLossChallenge! Earplugs provided by [Cochlear Americas](#) will be handed out at every Walk4Hearing nationwide.

Share your experience on social media with a photo or a video of you taking the challenge! Don't forget to tag [@HLAA](#) [@Walk4Hearing](#) with #HearingLossChallenge!

Step Up for People with Hearing Loss and Communication Access! Register for a Walk near you at [walk4hearing.org](#) and take the [#HearingLossChallenge](#)! It's a great way to experience what it's like for the 48 million people living with hearing loss.

HEARING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Interested in Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT)? N-CHAT is Now Accepting Applications!

The Network of Consumer Hearing Assistive Technology Trainers (N-CHAT) is a volunteer consumer train-the-trainer program. The program's goal is to build a network of consumer trainers with the knowledge and skills necessary to train others impacted by hearing loss. Trainers will assist others in the successful integration of hearing assistive technology to support individual hearing and communication needs at home, work, school, and the community.

N-CHAT training includes webinars and online modules, which are completed over a period of six months, followed by an in-person, three-day training session in the Washington, D.C. area. The in-person portion of the training consists of presentations on training activities and hearing assistive technology topics, hands-on technology exploration, and opportunities for training practice and interactive learning.

Visit the [N-CHAT Training page](#) on the HLAA website for more information and to find out how to apply. Questions about the N-CHAT program should be directed to n-chatt@hearingloss.org.

Act Now - applications are being accepted until July 10, 2017!

Do You Need Help Beyond Your Hearing Aid or Cochlear Implant?

Use of hearing assistive technology (HAT) is one important way for consumers to live better with hearing loss. However, there is a substantial lack of understanding about available technological solutions. HAT includes assistive listening systems (such as FM,





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hearing loop systems, and infrared), telecommunications products and services (such as captioned telephones and relay services) and alerting devices (such as alarm clocks and smoke detectors that use loud audio alerts, vibrating receivers and/or flashing lights). There are also equipment distribution programs, state assistive technology programs and other helpful resources that can be beneficial.

The HLAA national office receives many inquiries about HAT, yet has no hearing assistive technology expert on staff available to field those calls. In response to this need, HLAA has created a new service called HAT HELP. Supervised doctoral level audiology students from the University of Washington and Gallaudet University are now available to answer your technical assistance questions. Simply write to hat_help@hearingloss.org and you will receive an email response to your question.

AWARENESS

Audiology Hackathon Series to Promote Awareness and Action

Beginning July 23, 2017, the [Academy of Doctors of Audiology](#) (ADA) will host a three-part online [Audiology Hackathon Series](#) to bring audiologists, students, consumers, and other experts together virtually, for the purpose of addressing specific issues, and to foster greater awareness and action around hearing health as a public health concern.

Inspired by the recommendations in the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) [report](#), *Hearing Health Care for Adults: Priorities for Improving Access and Affordability*, the Audiology Hackathon Series seeks to form a large community of contributors to apply the most focused possible effort, in a concentrated timeframe, on a singular issue. For more information and to register, go to audiologist.org/hackathon.

MESSAGE FROM HLAA

Friday, June 16 will mark the final issue of *This Week in Bethesda* (TWIB). But don't worry – you won't miss any news! TWIB is being discontinued in preparation for a new, expanded version of our e-News publications. Stay tuned, more information on these exciting changes will be coming in July!

