

AMENDMENT

OFFERED BY M . _____

At the appropriate place, insert the following section:

1 **SEC. ____ . REGULATION OF OVER-THE-COUNTER HEARING**

2 **AIDS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 520 of the Federal Food,
4 Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360j) is amended by
5 adding at the end the following:

6 “(p) REGULATION OF OVER-THE-COUNTER HEARING
7 AIDS.—

8 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
9 ‘over-the-counter hearing aid’ means a device—

10 “(A) that uses the same fundamental sci-
11 entific technology as air conduction hearing
12 aids (as defined in section 874.3300 of title 21,
13 Code of Federal Regulations) (or any successor
14 regulation) or wireless air conduction hearing
15 aids (as defined in section 874.3305 of title 21,
16 Code of Federal Regulations) (or any successor
17 regulation);

1 “(B) that is intended to be used by adults
2 over the age of 18 to compensate for perceived
3 mild to moderate hearing impairment;

4 “(C) that, through tools, tests, or software,
5 allows the user to control the over-the-counter
6 hearing aid and customize it to the user’s hear-
7 ing needs;

8 “(D) that may—

9 “(i) use wireless technology; or

10 “(ii) include tests for self-assessment
11 of hearing loss; and

12 “(E) that is available over-the-counter,
13 without the supervision, prescription, or other
14 order, involvement, or intervention of a licensed
15 person, to consumers through in-person trans-
16 actions, by mail, or online.

17 “(2) REGULATION.—An over-the-counter hear-
18 ing aid shall be subject to the regulations promul-
19 gated in accordance with section 2(b) of the Over-
20 the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017 and shall be
21 exempt from sections 801.420 and 801.421 of title
22 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor
23 regulations).”.

24 (b) REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH CATEGORY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
2 Human Services (referred to in this section as the
3 “Secretary”), not later than 3 years after the date
4 of enactment of this Act, shall promulgate proposed
5 regulations to establish a category of over-the-
6 counter hearing aids, as defined in subsection (p) of
7 section 520 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cos-
8 metic Act (21 U.S.C. 360j) as amended by sub-
9 section (a), and, not later than 180 days after the
10 date on which the public comment period on the pro-
11 posed regulations closes, shall issue such final regu-
12 lations.

13 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In promulgating the reg-
14 ulations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

15 (A) include requirements that provide rea-
16 sonable assurances of the safety and efficacy of
17 over-the-counter hearing aids;

18 (B) include requirements that establish or
19 adopt output limits appropriate for over-the-
20 counter hearing aids;

21 (C) include requirements for appropriate
22 labeling of the over-the-counter hearing aid, in-
23 cluding how consumers may report adverse
24 events, any conditions or contraindications, and

1 any advisements to consult promptly with a li-
2 censed physician; and

3 (D) describe the requirements under which
4 the sale of over-the-counter hearing aids is per-
5 mitted, without the supervision, prescription, or
6 other order, involvement, or intervention of a li-
7 censed person, to consumers through in-person
8 transactions, by mail, or online.

9 (3) **PREMARKET NOTIFICATION.**—The Sec-
10 retary shall make findings under section 510(m) of
11 the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21
12 U.S.C. 360(m)) to determine whether over-the-
13 counter hearing aids (as defined in section 520(p) of
14 the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21
15 U.S.C. 360j), as amended by subsection (a)) require
16 a report under section 510(k) to provide reasonable
17 assurance of safety and effectiveness.

18 (4) **EFFECT ON STATE LAW.**—No State or local
19 government shall establish or continue in effect any
20 law, regulation, order, or other requirement specifi-
21 cally applicable to hearing products that would re-
22 strict or interfere with the servicing, marketing, sale,
23 dispensing, use, customer support, or distribution of
24 over-the-counter hearing aids (as defined in section
25 520(p) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic

1 Act (21 U.S.C. 360j), as amended by subsection (a))
2 through in-person transactions, by mail, or online,
3 that is different from, in addition to, or otherwise
4 not identical to, the regulations promulgated under
5 this subsection, including any State or local require-
6 ment for the supervision, prescription, or other
7 order, involvement, or intervention of a licensed per-
8 son for consumers to access over-the-counter hearing
9 aids.

10 (c) NEW GUIDANCE ISSUED.—Not later than the
11 date on which final regulations are issued under sub-
12 section (b), the Secretary shall update and finalize the
13 draft guidance of the Department of Health and Human
14 Services entitled, “Regulatory Requirements for Hearing
15 Aid Devices and Personal Sound Amplification Products”,
16 issued on November 7, 2013. Such updated and finalized
17 guidance shall clarify which products, on the basis of
18 claims or other marketing, advertising, or labeling mate-
19 rial, meet the definition of a device in section 201 of the
20 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321)
21 and which products meet the definition of a personal
22 sound amplification product, as set forth in such guidance.

