

There oughta be a law

A primer for getting hearing loss legislation passed in your state

Presenters

Steve Frazier, Hearing Loss Support Specialist

Anne Lobdell, Doctor of Audiology

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



Consumer Driven Legislative Initiatives

- When and how to start a campaign
- What tools and materials are needed
- Getting your bill written
- Finding a legislator to carry your bill
- The legislative process
- Rallying support for the legislation
- Advocating for your bill
- When the voting is over

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



Many issues can be addressed

Telecoil counseling prior to sale of hearing aids.

Health insurance to cover hearing aids.

Mandatory trial period for hearing aids.

*Training in identifying hearing loss among
long term care workers & seeking treatment.*

*A hearing loss education program for health
care professionals.*

Increased Medicaid coverage for hearing

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



RECENT INITIATIVES

California, Colorado, Delaware,
New Mexico, Washington, Utah

In discussion or planning stage

California, Colorado
Kansas, Iowa

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



HOW DO YOU START?

REACH OUT TO STAKEHOLDERS

Agencies that work with HoH

Hearing Loss support groups

Supportive hearing care professionals

Groups like HLAA, ALDA, AARP, LWV

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



WHEN DO YOU START?

1. START EARLY.

Time needed to develop and institute an effective campaign.

2. REACH OUT TO OTHERS.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



HOW DO YOU START?

1. FORM A COMMITTEE

2. Appoint a leader

but

3. Share responsibilities

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



REACH OUT TO HEARING CARE PROFESSIONALS

Try to recruit an audiologist and a dispenser to
serve on your committee.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



RALLYING SUPPORT

CREATE A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED LEGISLATION

“Our bill will require by statute that hearing care providers counsel all hearing aid buyers in ADA required assistive listening technology prior to the sale and fitting of hearing aids.”

“Our bill will mandate that medicaid cover the cost of two hearing aids up to \$4,000 for the pair at least once every five years for clients who have a hearing loss sufficient to benefit from hearing aids.”

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



RALLYING SUPPORT

Request letters of support from:

- ✓ State speech and hearing association
- ✓ American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA)
- ✓ American Academy of Audiology (AAA)
- ✓ Association of Doctors of Audiology (ADA)
- ✓ International Hearing Society (IHS)
- ✓ National offices of HLAA, ALDA, TDI, Say What Club

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



RALLYING SUPPORT

Request letters of support from:

- Experts on issue
- HLAA/ALDA etc. chapters in the state
- State AARP office
- City, county and state agencies:
 - ✓ Comm for Deaf and HoH
 - ✓ Voc Rehab
 - ✓ Senior Services

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



TOOLS AND MATERIAL

1. WEB SITE
2. SOCIAL MEDIA
3. EMAIL LISTS
4. PRINTED MATERIAL

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



TOOLS AND MATERIAL

WEB SITE

Create a new one or use an existing site to post information and updates.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



TOOLS AND MATERIAL

SOCIAL MEDIA

Set up Facebook and Twitter accounts and begin seeking friends when you first begin the planning.



Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



TOOLS AND MATERIAL

EMAIL LISTS

Search Contacts Search Add Contact | Import Contacts | Print Contacts

Email View / Edit Delete Page 1 of 30 Show 50

Select: All | None

<input type="checkbox"/>	First Name	Last Name	Nick Name	Primary Email	Primary Phone
<input type="checkbox"/>		ABQ Board		HLAAbq@googlegroups.com	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Debra	Ackerman - LC		bee134@juno.com	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Southwest	ADA Center			800-949-4232
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alice	Adams - HLA	Alice_Adams_-_HL	justagram14@q.com	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alice	Adams 2		justagram@icloud.com	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brett	Adams-Aud-SF		brett.p.adams@gmail.com	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charlie & Joan	Adams-DCC	Charlie___Joan_A	jeagibbs@mywdo.com	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris	Addis - HLA	Chris_Addis_-_HLA	chris@addis.net	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rep. David	Adkins R29		david.adkins@nmlegis.gov	239-3987
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth	Adkins - HoH		adkinsliz@hotmail.com	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ronnie	Adler		radler@hearingloss.org	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sherry Fox	Advance		sfox@advanceweb.com	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sharon	Ahrens - SF		snarens@comcast.net	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jorge	Alarcon -HoH		jorge_n_alarcon@hotmail.com	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Albuquerque Chap		AlbuquerqueHLAA@juno.com	
<input type="checkbox"/>		ALDA Info		info@alda.org	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lara	Alessandrelli-Aud		lciasulli@msn.com	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ahmed	Alexander-Aud	Ahmed_Alexander-	ahmadalexander@yahoo.com	

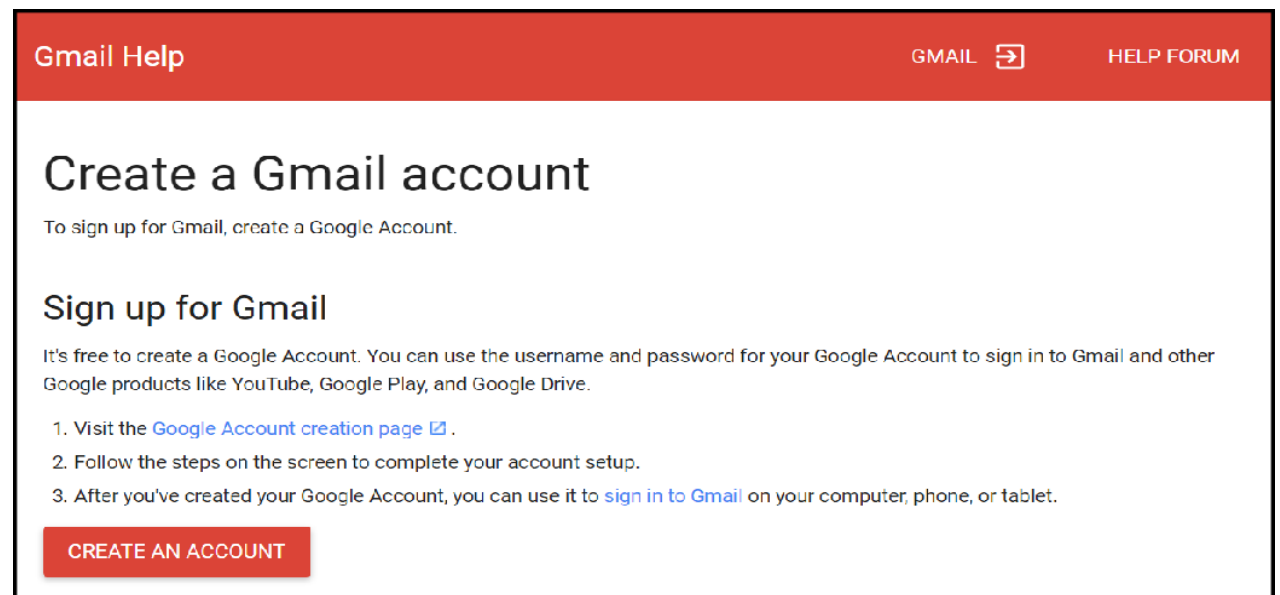
Get cooperation for the use of email lists of stakeholders (HoH, agency people, others) or begin to create your own...

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



YOU'LL NEED AN EMAIL ADDRESS

Use an existing one or create a new one that can be used for all communications related to your initiative.



The screenshot shows the Gmail Help page for creating a Gmail account. The page has a red header with "Gmail Help" on the left, "GMAIL" with a right-pointing arrow in the center, and "HELP FORUM" on the right. Below the header, the main heading is "Create a Gmail account". Underneath, it says "To sign up for Gmail, create a Google Account." The next section is "Sign up for Gmail", followed by the text: "It's free to create a Google Account. You can use the username and password for your Google Account to sign in to Gmail and other Google products like YouTube, Google Play, and Google Drive." A list of three steps follows: 1. Visit the [Google Account creation page](#). 2. Follow the steps on the screen to complete your account setup. 3. After you've created your Google Account, you can use it to [sign in to Gmail](#) on your computer, phone, or tablet. At the bottom of the content area is a red button that says "CREATE AN ACCOUNT".

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



TOOLS AND MATERIAL

PRINTED MATERIAL

Prepare a handout to share with prospective supporters, legislators and others containing basic info on the issue.

Hearing loops provide a direct connect for those with telecoil equipped hearing aids.
A hearing loop system turns hearing aids right into the air.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Person speaks into a microphone.
2. Amplifier sends that sound current to a wire loop surrounding the listeners, creating a magnetic zone.
3. Zone becomes a magnetic field and delivers signal the listeners telecoil/hearing aids which like a radio signal is delivered to a radio.

Direct connections for those with hearing aids

Hearing Aid 2.0

More than 80% percent of the directional microphones, or other best information/communication.

Make certain I understand that I am not required to use a hearing aid. I understand that I am not required to use a hearing aid.

Outside survey conducted:

Are you hard of hearing? ...

If you are hard of hearing, how often do you use aids when speaking?

If you are hard of hearing, do you use a hearing aid when you are in a public place?

*Sources for responsiveness: HLLA New Mexico chapter, HLLA National Chapter website, HLLA Facebook page, CCA Facebook group, CCA website, HLLA Chapter website, HLLA website.

***Not counseling a client about a tank of gas. Further, it is my telecoil and other technology.**
Cynthia Curtis

Committee for Communication Access

Organizations and Individuals Supporting * House Bill 70 - 2016

National Offices of:
Association of Late Deafened Adults - ALDA, Hearing Loss Association of America - HLLA, Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - TDI

State Organizations/Agencies
AARP New Mexico, Governor's Commission on Disability, New Mexico HLLA Chapter - Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, NM Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons, Independent Living Resource Center, New Mexico Association for the Deaf

Individuals
Leland Bowen - Las Placitas Presbyterian Church Sound Technician
Cynthia Compton-Conley, Ph.D. - Audiologist, educator, consultant and consumer advocate
Jim Dillow - St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Sound Technician
Dr. Michael Flores - UNM, Speech and Hearing Sciences
Stephen O. Frazier - Hearing Loss Support Specialist
Patricia Kricoy, Ph.D. - Audiology Professor, University of Florida and former President, American Academy of Audiology
Dr. Juliette Sterkens, Audiologist, hearing loop advocate
Sam Trychin, Ph.D. - Hearing loss psychologist

*Letters of support posted at www.CCAnm.homestead.com/home.html

Why this legislation is needed: Studies and testimony from hearing aid users at hearing loss support meetings and elsewhere document the fact that the majority of hearing aid buyers are not adequately considered in telecoil technology and its many applications in their daily life including **accessing ADA required assistive listening devices**. Telecoils are technology used to hear better on the phone, when watching TV, at church and in other ways. A survey found that nearly 85% of those hearing aid wearers who know about the technology have it in their hearing aids and use it regularly. It can supplement Bluetooth® and other, newer hearing aid technologies and can provide communication access in large venues for multiple users where the others cannot and it meets the ADA mandate for hearing aid accessibility.

How this bill addresses the need: HLLA revises the statute that created the NM Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practitioner Board by establishing a procedure through which hearing care providers would be required to provide the counseling on the technology called for in the ADA, by hearing loss support organizations, and by hard of hearing consumers that would enable hearing aid buyers to make an educated and informed decision as to their need for (and possible use of) the technology in question prior to purchasing of hearing aids.

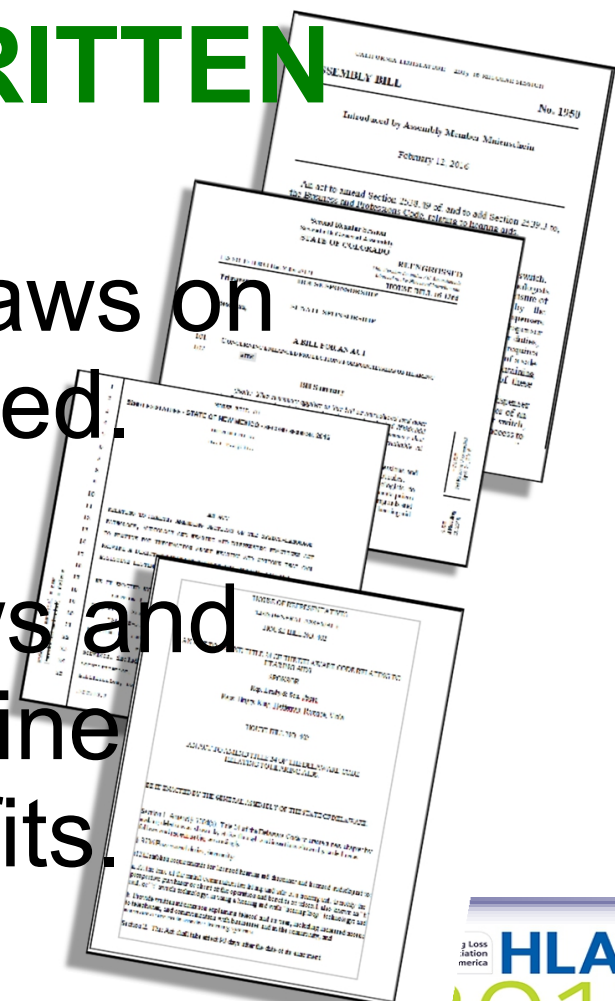
CDPH **HLLA** **Hearing Loss Association of America**

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



GETTING YOUR BILL WRITTEN

1. Review known existing laws on the matter to be addressed.
2. Review your state's laws and regulations to determine where your issue fits.



Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:

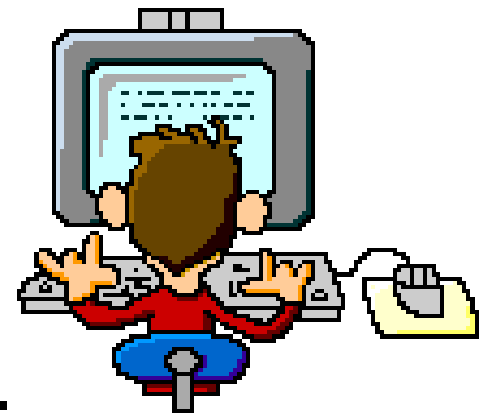


GETTING YOUR BILL WRITTEN



1. Communicate with major stakeholders requesting their input.

2. Draft initial wording of changes or additions to existing laws and regulations.



Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:

LISTEN
TECHNOLOGIES

Hearing Loss Association of America **HLAA**
2017
CONVENTION
JUNE 22-25 | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

GETTING YOUR BILL WRITTEN



Start search for a sponsor with your own legislator or that of a committee member.

Sit down with him/her and review the issue and why the need for your bill.



Have authoritative documentation available to support your contention if it appears to be needed.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



GETTING YOUR BILL WRITTEN

Once you have a sponsor committed, review your committee's draft with the sponsor.



After changes negotiated with the sponsor, the bill will go to “legislative services” or similar to be put into acceptable words and format by their experts.

BE CERTAIN YOU ARE KEPT IN THE LOOP !

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



GETTING YOUR BILL WRITTEN



The bill carries that sponsor's name so he/she must be satisfied with it
BUT...

It's your bill too, so you and your committee should have a say in the final version of the bill before it is filed and begins the legislative process.

BE CERTAIN YOU ARE KEPT IN THE LOOP !

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



Now is also the time to
PLAN AHEAD FOR PASSAGE

How you raise awareness of new regulation.

Where and how to get funding if needed.

How you will monitor enforcement.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Different states have some procedures and terminology that are unique to them but basic process pretty much the same.

IDEA DEVELOPED

A legislator – a Representative or Senator – decides to sponsor a bill (an original idea, constituent request, an interest group, a public official or the Governor). Other lawmakers of the same or different political party may be asked to join as co-sponsors.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

BILL DRAFTED

At the sponsoring legislator's direction, the state's nonpartisan legislative services agency provides research and drafting assistance and puts the bill in proper technical form.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

BILL INTRODUCED

Bill is filed by the legislator in her/his own chamber, which could be either the Senate or the House of Representatives. If the chamber leadership does not call the bill for a First Reading, it “dies.” If the bill is called, it is on track to move through process.

The appropriate official of the chamber can choose not to refer the bill to a committee. In this event, the bill “dies.”

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

BILL ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE

The committee takes action on the bill. The committee chair may choose not to schedule bill for hearing. In this event, bill “dies.”

If the bill is to advance, it is scheduled for a public hearing. At that hearing, the committee discusses the merits and disadvantages of the bill, and any interested party may ask to speak to the committee. Interested persons may speak in favor of or in opposition to the bill.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

BILL ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE

Following this hearing, the bill can be voted upon or tabled. If the bill is tabled, it may or may not come back for a vote. If it does not come back for a vote, the bill “dies.

If the committee casts a vote on the bill, the bill can be defeated or it can be sent on to another committee or “advance”. If the bill advances it is to the chamber for deliberation. Chamber leadership may choose not to schedule the bill for a Second Reading. In this event, the bill “dies.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

COMMITTEE ACTION

- A) Report the bill with favorable recommendation.
- B) Report the bill with amendments with favorable recommendation.
- C) Report a substitute bill in place of the original bill.
- D) Report the bill without recommendation.
- E) Report the bill with amendments but without recommendation.
- F) Report the bill with the recommendation that the bill be referred to another committee.
- G) Take no action on a bill. H) Vote to not report a bill out of committee

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

BILL VOTED ON BY FULL CHAMBER

Following an established procedure for amending it the bill will come to a vote by the full body. A simple majority of the full chamber can usually advance the bill.

If a majority vote is not received, the bill “dies.”

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

THE PROCESS REPEATS IN THE OTHER CHAMBER

Once the bill passes the first chamber it goes to the second where the process repeats.

The second chamber may fail to act on the bill, in which case the bill “dies” or it can “die” at any step of the way and just as long as the bill is advancing, amendments may be proposed and accepted.

If the bill advances through the second chamber without amendments it is sent to the Governor for signature.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

The bill returns to the house of origin.

If the bill is amended it returns to the house of origin.

The house of origin may fail to take action, and the bill “dies.”

The house of origin votes to approve the changes then the bill is sent to the Governor for signature.

If the first chamber does not approve the changes made by the second chamber, and both houses want the bill to advance, the bill is assigned to a Conference Committee.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

The bill returns to the house of origin.

If the bill is amended it returns to the house of origin.

The house of origin may fail to take action, and the bill “dies.”

The house of origin votes to approve the changes then the bill is sent to the Governor for signature.

If the first chamber does not approve the changes made by the second chamber, and both houses want the bill to advance, the bill is assigned to a Conference Committee.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Conference Committee is made up of members from both legislative bodies and the members attempt to reconcile differences between the chambers.

If agreement cannot be reached, the bill “dies.” If agreement is reached, the bill returns to both chambers.

Both chambers must approve the bill before it can be sent to the governor for signature.

Hearing,Loop Track Sponsored By:



THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

ONCE THE BILL IS RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNOR

If signed, the bill becomes law.

If nothing done the bill becomes law without the Governor's signature or “dies” with a “pocket veto” depending on the state.

If vetoed, the bill “dies.”

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



RALLYING SUPPORT

WITH OK FROM YOUR BILL'S SPONSOR:

Once your bill is written,
begin phone/email/letter writing campaign.

Ask supporters to let their senators, representatives and the
Governor know their position on an issue/bill.

Seek out volunteers to attend (and testify) at committee hearings.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



ADVOCACY OR LOBBYING

Advocacy

Telling legislators how an action would help you and others.
Educating a legislator about the effects of a policy on your constituency.

Lobbying

Asking a legislator to vote for or against or amend legislation.
Emailing a “call to action” urging others to contact their legislators in support of action on introduced legislation or pending regulations.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



HOW CAN YOU BE AN ADVOCATE?

You can be an advocate by

educating legislators or policymakers about the needs of the people you serve, and developing a relationship where you act as trusted voice on policy issues.

You and others can advocate by

Writing, emailing or calling your elected officials.

Making your views known to policymakers and your community through traditional and social media.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



ADVOCATING FOR YOUR BILL

ALABAMA

“Any citizen not lobbying for compensation who contacts a member of a legislative body, or gives public testimony on a particular issue or on particular legislation, or for the purpose of influencing legislation and who is merely exercising his or her constitutional right to communicate with members of a legislative body is not a lobbyist.”

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



FOLLOW YOUR BILL

Bill Finder or other online tools to track your bills progress and alert you to committee hearings.

Do morning, afternoon and night.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



AFTER THE BILL PASSES BOTH HOUSES

Encourage supporters to continue advocating with the governor's office.

Contact the Governor's staff and try to establish a relationship.

Find out to whom they should go and provide advocacy material.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



FOLLOWING UP

Thank your bill sponsors and co-sponsors.

Thank your supporters.

Send out a news release re the results.

Begin your post passage awareness campaign.

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:





QUESTIONS?

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:



Thank you for attending our workshop

*Get your free thumb drive containing
many looping workshop slide presentation and more..*

Hearing Loop Track Sponsored By:

