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Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia

Position Statement on Licensed Audiologists in the Commonwealth of Virginia being exempt from the Hearing Specialist License

It is our association's position that requiring Audiologists in the Commonwealth to also hold a Hearing Aid Specialist license is unnecessary, costly and burdensome duplication. The Hearing Aid examination consists of two parts, one informational the other practical. Audiologists were first licensed in 1973 and at that time there were individuals who didn't fit hearing aids because not long before the national organization (American Speech, Language and Hearing Association; <http://www.asha.org>) discouraged the practice. Now in 2013 audiologists have a four year doctoral education contrasted to the Hearing Aid Specialist with some training beyond high school. There is no concern that audiologists have insufficient knowledge to fit hearing aids and with practical courses in the Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) curriculum there is no concern that these doctoral trained audiologists cannot perform all the necessary procedures including acoustic verification of the fit, to warrant the continued need for dual licensing. Our association, representing audiologists in the commonwealth, strongly recommends that the requirement that

licensed audiologists should be exempt from the Hearing Aid Specialists' requirement. Dual licensing is not needed to protect the consumers and poses additional level of bureaucracy with can be safely eliminated.

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