

November 19, 2023

Daniel Rosenthal, PE (Chair)
Hearing Care Professionals Technical Review Committee
Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
Attn: Ron Briel, Credentialing Review
PO Box 94986
Lincoln, NE 68509-4986

POSITION: STRONGLY OPPOSE

Dear Mr. Rosenthal,

I am writing to you as a licensed clinical audiologist practicing in Grand Island, NE, to oppose the proposed scope of practice expansion for Hearing Instrument Specialists (HIS) who currently hold a license in the state of Nebraska.

The proposed expansion would allow HIS to perform specialized audiological services without the appropriate education and training which poses a financial and physical threat to all ages seeking these services.

Diagnostic services, cerumen management, tinnitus evaluation/treatment and aural rehabilitation are complex procedures that require ample training to provide safe and quality care. As a licensed audiologist in Nebraska, I received my clinical doctorate (Au.D.) degree which also included a required minimum of 1820 hours of supervised clinical experience. My knowledge and ability to properly perform these services was tested throughout the Au.D. program to determine competency. The current requirements for HIS are for the individual to be 21 years of age and to have received a high school diploma. In our profession, we often encounter medical disorders where our education and training is vital in knowing proper protocols for best patient care. Thus, the proposed expansion in services requires a greater knowledge base and supervised training to ensure these services are able to be provided accurately and safely.

Licensure laws are put in place to protect patients, which is why I strongly urge the Hearing Care Technical Review Committee to reject the HIS expansion. Thank you for your time and I hope you find this helpful in making your decision with the best interest of Nebraska residents in mind.

Sincerely,

Anna M. Murphy, Au.D., CCC-A
Doctor of Audiology