CALL TO ACTION

ACCORDING TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, hearing aids are classified as “optional prosthetic devices.” Because of this classification, health insurance companies do not have to cover the cost of hearing aids for their members. The range of costs for a hearing aid is approximately $1000 - $5,000 each. Many deaf and hard of hearing children, adults, and seniors cannot afford to purchase hearing aids due to the prohibitive fees.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Our Way, for the Jewish Deaf and Hard of Hearing, an agency of the Orthodox Union, is asking each of you to sign this petition to help change the classification of hearing aids so that Health Insurance companies will agree to pay for them. We are asking the federal government to change the status of hearing aids from “optional prosthetic devices” to “essential prosthetic devices.”

A CHILD IS BORN with a severe hearing loss in both ears and gains auditory benefit from the use of hearing aids. His/her family cannot afford the prohibitive cost of the hearing aids and therefore cannot purchase these critical devices. Their school district has purchased the aids for the student. Since the hearing aids are the property of the school district, the child can only use them while in school. When he/she arrives in school at 8:15 am, he/she puts on the aids and can access sound in his classroom. When the bell rings at 3:00 pm, the hearing aids must be removed and left in the school. The child goes home deaf!

A SENIOR ADULT would like to attend a social event in their community center. However, the adult has a hearing loss that has progressed in severity due to the aging process. Medicaid will purchase one hearing aid for the deaf adult. On a fixed income, the senior cannot afford to purchase the second hearing aid critical to utilizing the auditory information in his/her environment. He/she cannot follow the activities and remains at home each day, becoming a recluse due to his/her inability to hear.

ACT TODAY! We Can Make A Difference in People’s Lives.
We will be delivering these signed petitions to members of Congress in March.

I, ___________________________________, a citizen of ______________________, ______________________
Respectfully request that Congress change the classifications of hearing aids and assisted listening devices from “optional prosthetic devices” to “essential prosthetic devices.” This change in classification will encourage health insurance companies to pay for essential, audiological testing, hearing aid devices, and their maintenance to benefit the hearing impaired citizens of the United States.

SIGNATURE: _______________________ DATE: _______________________

11 BROADWAY, 13TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10004 | (VIDEOPHONE) 646.297.1973 | WWW.NJCD.ORG/OURWAY