



## ISSUE BRIEF

# Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit

### Action

Request your members of Congress to cosponsor the Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act of 2013 which would allow for a hearing aid tax credit.

### Background

The Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act of 2013, H.R. 1317, has been introduced in the House of Representatives and will likely be introduced in the Senate very soon. This legislation would allow for an income tax credit for the purchase of hearing aids. Members of Congress are encouraged to cosponsor this important legislation. The proposed legislation would provide for a tax credit of \$500 per hearing aid every 5 years. In the past, this legislation has received strong bipartisan support. It is meant to offer assistance to those who have the greatest need for these devices but are unable to afford them.

### Facts

- ◆ Hearing aids are not covered under Medicare or under the vast majority of state-mandated benefits. Sixty-one percent of hearing aid purchases involve no third-party payment, which places the entire burden on the patient (Better Hearing Institute, 2009).
- ◆ The average cost for a hearing aid is approximately \$1,700. For those with hearing loss requiring two devices, the average out-of-pocket expense is over \$3,400 (Better Hearing Institute, 2009).
- ◆ While 95% of individuals with hearing loss could be successfully treated with hearing aids, only about 25% of the 34 million Americans with hearing loss (about 8.4 million people) used them in 2008 (Better Hearing Institute, 2009).
- ◆ This legislation is not intended to cover the full cost of hearing aids, but to provide some measure of financial assistance to the groups who are most in need of these devices but are unable to afford them—in particular those approaching or in retirement and families with children who need the devices.

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### Reference

Better Hearing Institute. (2009). *MarkeTrak VIII: 25-year trends in the hearing health market*. Retrieved from [www.betterhearing.org/pdfs/Kochkin\\_MarkeTrak8\\_OctHR09\\_hr.pdf](http://www.betterhearing.org/pdfs/Kochkin_MarkeTrak8_OctHR09_hr.pdf).