

From: brian@gallyprotest.org
Subject: PRESS RELEASE -- Murdered Former Pentagon official John Wheeler an infamous figure in deaf politics
Date: Friday, January 7, 2011, 11:49 PM

Saturday, January 8, 2011, 2:49 am Eastern Time

PRESS RELEASE -- Murdered Former Pentagon official John Wheeler an infamous figure in deaf politics

Former Deafness Research Foundation CEO John Wheeler who was recently murdered was involved in the infamous "Death of deafness" article series.

See:

http://saveourdeafschoools.org/death_of_deafness.pdf

From: brian@gallyprotest.org
Subject: (UPDATE) PRESS RELEASE -- Murdered Former Pentagon official John Wheeler an infamous figure in deaf politics
Date: Saturday, January 8, 2011, 12:36 AM

Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011, 3:35 am

UPDATE:

John Wheeler's authorized biographical statement is attached.

See: <http://gallyprotest.org/John-Wheeler-Bio.pdf>

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "brian@gallyprotest.org" <brian@gallyprotest.org>

Sent: Saturday, January 8, 2011 9:09 AM

Subject: [SODS] (2ND UPDATE) Media Advisory -- PRESS RELEASE -- Murdered Former Pentagon official John Wheeler an infamous figure in deaf politics

Saturday, January 8, 2011, 12:09 pm Eastern Time

(2ND UPDATE) PRESS RELEASE -- Murdered Former Pentagon official John Wheeler an infamous figure in deaf politics

Media advisory:

When the "Death of deafness" series appeared in Hearing Health Magazine, starting in the Jan/Feb 2000 issue, the Deafness Research Foundation (DRF) had not yet purchased the magazine. DRF finalized negotiations and completed the purchase of Hearing Health Magazine in 2002. Below is a copy and paste of a DRF press release which explains the purchase.

The DRF also sponsored the (now defunct) "Congressional Hearing Health Caucus" which was active several years ago and could be said to have been one of the causes of bad policy initiatives that was a major contributing cause to and led to the necessity of the Unity for Gallaudet protest in May 2006 (See attached transcripts of the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus)

November 2002

DRF, Sponsor of NCHH, Launches Hearing Health Magazine

Deafness Research Foundation (DRF), sponsor of the NCHH, purchased Hearing Health, a publication and resource guide for consumers and

professionals. "We are thrilled to publish such a high-quality publication. We plan to use DRF's stature in the hearing field to expand our readership and content and make Hearing Health a pioneering news source," said DRF Executive Director Susan Greco.

DRF bought the publication from Paula Bonillas, founder, sole-owner and editor who dedicated the past 19 years of her life to serving people like herself who face the challenges of living with hearing loss. "The decision to sell the publication was not easy for me," said Ms. Bonillas. "But I know current and future readers will be in good hands with DRF."

Founded in 1958, DRF is a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., charged with a mission of making a lifetime of hearing health possible for all people through quality research, public education and advocacy. DRF is the leading source of private funding for basic and clinical research in hearing science.

As the publisher of Hearing Health, DRF will build on the publication's tradition of bringing its readers reliable, responsible and useful information.

"Those familiar with the publication will miss Paula's [Bonillas] personal style, but readers will be delighted to know that Lorraine Short, long a member of the [Hearing Health] team has stepped into the role of editor to provide continuity and expertise," said Ms. Greco. Karyn Butts, DRF's director of public education, joins the editorial staff as managing editor.

For more information about the publication, subscription rates or editorial calendar please visit www.hearinghealthmag.com or contact Hearing Health by email at info@hearinghealthmag.com.

LINK:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20030810103038/www.hearinghealth.net/cms/index.cfm?displayArticle=101>

SEE ALSO:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20031011120642/www.hearinghealth.net/cms/index.cfm?displayArticle=25>

SEE:

http://gallyprotest.org/congressional_hearing_health_caucus_transcripts.pdf

From: "brian@gallyprotest.org" <brian@gallyprotest.org>
Sent: Saturday, January 8, 2011 10:33 AM
Subject: [SODS] (3RD UPDATE) Media Advisory -- PRESS RELEASE -- Murdered Former Pentagon official John Wheeler an infamous figure in deaf politics

Saturday, January 8, 2011, 1:32 pm Eastern Time (Edited: Sept. 5, 2015)

Media advisory/background and historical information:

As the May 19, 2003 update from the DRF's "National Campaign for Hearing Health (NCHH)" indicates (also called the "Hear US" publicity campaign, see copied and pasted updates below), the DRF was "partnering" with Dr. Karl White of the National Center of Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM).

*Karl White is *perhaps* ultimately the person responsible for putting forth bad policy initiatives at the federal level--policy initiatives which led to the DRF deciding to hire John Wheeler in 1997 to lead the "National Campaign for Hearing Health"--all of which were most likely the precipitating events that led to the 2006 protest at Gallaudet. Karl White was working as staff member of Senator Lowell P. Weicker's office in the 1980s, and it was perhaps Karl White's original idea to push for an amendment to the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (later renamed to: "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act") to further the longstanding goals of a segment of the otolaryngology medical establishment to push for near-universal cochlear implantation of children born deaf. The amendment, which was apparently written by Karl White, [allowed for the establishment of a government program](#) to screen all newborn babies to determine if they are deaf.*

Karl White continues to be active with the National Center of Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) and engaging in what called only be described a "smoke and mirrors" policy and political maneuvering to exercise near-unilateral control over the

annual Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) conferences, which could be said to be an abuse of political power and a mishandling of federal appropriations, since NCHAM is funded, to a large extent, by the US Dept of Health and Human Services.

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January 2002

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The National Campaign for Hearing Health  
Hear US Grassroots Network  
January 31, 2002  
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Welcome to the first electronic newsletter of the National Campaign for Hearing Health's Hear US network. The National Campaign for Hearing Health is working to make a lifetime of hearing possible for all Americans through quality research, education and advocacy. We are fortunate to have advocates like you join us to advance this important cause.

In an effort to stay in touch with you, as well as keep you informed about the legislative events and activities that are impacting hearing health, the Campaign has instituted these monthly e-newsletters. You will receive a new e-newsletter on the last day of each month. Action Alerts will occasionally supplement the e-newsletters, when we need your help contacting Congress about a specific piece of legislation.

Please contact hearus@drf.org with any questions or for further information about any of the news briefs in this issue.

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In this issue:

- \* Federal Funding Increased for Universal Newborn Hearing Screening
- \* New Medicare Reimbursement Guidelines for Cochlear Implants are Insufficient
- \* Foley Bill Would Increase Access to Hearing Aids Under Medicare
- \* Campaign's "Celebration of Hearing Health" is a Success
- \* Upcoming Congressional Hearing Health Caucus: I.D.E.A.

\* Spotlight On: National Court Reporters' Association

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Federal Funding Increased for Universal Newborn Hearing Screening

The 2002-2003 federal budget for the Department of Health and Human Services, signed into law by President Bush on January 11, 2002, contains a landmark funding increase for infant hearing screening. Although this year's original budget reduced funding by more than \$1 million, the Campaign worked with hearing health advocates across the country and successfully lobbied for \$10 million in state grants (a \$3 million increase) and approximately \$8 million for the Centers for Disease Control (an \$800,000 increase). Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) and Representative James Walsh (R-NY) were instrumental in this accomplishment.

The Campaign is thankful to all of you who contacted your Members of Congress about this very important issue. Although we have made great strides in bringing about Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, only 65 percent of infants are currently screened for hearing loss at birth and there is much work to be done. We will continue to monitor the state of infant hearing screening in America and provide you with updates as they are available.

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New Medicare Reimbursement Guidelines for Cochlear Implants are Insufficient

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency within the Department of Health and Human Services that administers the Medicare and Medicaid programs, introduced new guidelines for cochlear implant reimbursement under Medicare on November 2 and December 1, 2001. The new reimbursement rates compensate hospitals only \$19,168 for each procedure that they perform on a Medicare recipient. This is well below the average cost of a cochlear implant device and surgery, and will cause hospitals to lose money each time they implant a Medicare patient. In the long term, such low reimbursement rates may cause hospitals to discontinue cochlear implant procedures altogether.

At the request of Congress, CMS announced on December 31, 2001 that it would delay the implementation of these new rates until at least April 1, 2002, taking time to reassess their accuracy. The Campaign is currently using the delay to work with other hearing health nonprofits and associations, cochlear implant manufacturers, and the co-chairs of the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus to ensure that cochlear implants are assigned fair reimbursement rates. We recommend that hospitals be reimbursed at least \$21,513, which reflects the national average cost of a cochlear implant procedure under Medicare.

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Foley Bill Would Increase Access to Hearing Aids Under Medicare

On September 21, 2001, Representative Mark Foley (R-FL) introduced the Medicare Aural Rehabilitation and Hearing Aid Coverage Act of 2001 (H.R. 2934). If passed, H.R.2934 would provide Medicare coverage of hearing aids and related services. The bill is currently in the House Energy and Commerce Committee (Health Subcommittee) and House Ways and Means Committee (Health Subcommittee), where its fate will be decided.

The full text of the Aural Rehabilitation and Hearing Aid Coverage Act of 2001 can be found at thomas.loc.gov. For more information about how you can contact your representatives and urge them to support H.R. 2934, please visit the Campaign's Legislative Action Center at www.hearinghealth.net.

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### Campaign's "Celebration of Hearing Health" is a Success

On January 24, 2002 the National Campaign for Hearing Health, and its parent organization, the Deafness Research Foundation, held "A Celebration of Hearing Health" awards dinner and charity gala in New York City. Hearing health advocate Leslie Nielsen, of "Naked Gun" fame, served as Master of Ceremonies and was joined by Kassie DePaiva, Blair Daimler of "One Life to Live" and the mother of a cochlear implant recipient.

The successful event raised \$350,000 for the Deafness Research Foundation's Hearing Research Grants Center and the National Campaign for Hearing Health's public education and advocacy programs. In addition, we have donated 10 percent of the evening's net proceeds to those affected by the events of September 11. Our contribution was distributed to nonprofit organizations that provide financial and emotional assistance to victims and their families.

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Spotlight On: National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management

The National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) has been a valued partner of the Campaign for several years. NCHAM is based at Utah State University and works to ensure that all infants and toddlers with hearing loss are identified as early as possible and provided with timely and appropriate audiological, educational, and medical intervention. NCHAM provides research, training, and technical assistance to achieve this goal and works closely with State Departments of Health to ensure that proper hearing screening tracking and data management systems are in place.

Directed by Karl White, NCHAM partners with the Campaign to release a State Report Card each May that monitors the status of Universal Newborn Hearing Screening in America. Please visit NCHAM's website at www.infanthearing.org for more information.

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February 2002

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The National Campaign for Hearing Health
Hear US Grassroots Network
February 28, 2002
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We received such a positive response to our first Hear US e-newsletter, that we are happy to bring you the February edition. Please feel free to forward it to your friends and colleagues. If you would like additional information about any of the news briefs in this issue or know someone who would like to subscribe, you may contact [hearus@drf.org](mailto:hearus@drf.org).

The National Campaign for Hearing Health (NCHH) is working to make a lifetime of hearing possible for all Americans through quality research, education and advocacy. We are fortunate to have advocates like you join us to advance this important cause.

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In this issue:

- * White House Releases Proposed Federal Budget for 2003
- * NCHH Presents, "I.D.E.A.: A Focus on Children With Hearing Loss" on Capitol Hill
- * NCHH and General Motors Launch Hearing Health Awareness Program
- * Number of Cochlear Implant Users Worldwide Increases
- * Focus On: Sonomax

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White House Releases Proposed Federal Budget for 2003

On February 4th, the White House released the proposed federal budget for 2003. The budget included spending projections for all government agencies and is now subject to changes and approval by the Senate and House of Representatives through the appropriations process. The proposed budget had a strong focus on defense, homeland security and bioterrorism issues, although there are a few areas of interest

where hearing health is concerned:

Funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS) state grant program was cut completely. After receiving an increase in 2002, bringing the total program budget to \$10 million, this is a setback and NCHH is working with other non-profit organizations and the co-chairs of the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus to restore the program money through the appropriations process. In addition, we will focus on increased funding for the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDD). NCBDD provides technical support for state screening programs, particularly in the areas of data tracking and follow up. You will receive information about how you can help shortly.

For more information about HRSA's state grant programs, please visit the HRSA website at <http://www.hrsa.gov>

For more information about NCBDD, please visit the NCBDD website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbdd/default.htm>

Then National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), the division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that focuses on hearing health issues, received a six percent increase in its total budget for 2003. This increase was part of a goal that included doubling the NIH's budget over a five-year period, ending in 2003. During 2003, the NIDCD will have a total budget of \$364 million to distribute among its research priorities, including speech, hearing, and balance.

For more information about NIDCD and it's research priorities, please visit the NIDCD website at <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov>

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NCHH Presents, "I.D.E.A.: A Focus on Children With Hearing Loss" on Capitol Hill

On February 28th, the National Campaign for Hearing Health made a presentation about the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.) to the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus. The presentation, "I.D.E.A.: A Focus on Children With Hearing Loss," was made on Capitol Hill to a group of more than 70 Members of Congress, hearing health professionals, and Congressional staffers.

Representative James Walsh (R-NY), co-chair of the Caucus, moderated the discussion and the following panelists provided expertise:

*

Loretta Petty, Deputy Assistant Secretary, United States Department of Education

*

Patricia K. Rothschild, MA, CCC-SLP, Director, Communication Dept., League for the Hard of Hearing

*

Nate and John Flanders, student with hearing loss and parent

*

Mark J. Golden, CAE, Co-Chair, Council of Organizational Representatives on National Issues Concerning People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (COR)

Congress passed I.D.E.A. in 1975 in order to provide children with special needs a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment. Through I.D.E.A., states receive a portion of the costs of educating special needs children in the form of federal grant money. Although I.D.E.A. originally intended for these grants to cover 40 percent of states' educational costs for special needs students by 1982, funding shortfalls have not allowed this level to rise above 15 percent since 1995.

A complete transcript of the event will be available on our website, <http://www.hearinghealth.net> by March 15.

For more information about I.D.E.A., please visit the United States Department of Education at <http://www.ed.gov>.

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### NCHH and General Motors Launch Hearing Health Awareness Program

The Pontiac-GMC Division of General Motors Corporation has partnered with the National Campaign for Hearing Health on a national Hearing Health Awareness Program. The program will consist of an NCHH display at the Pontiac-GMC Information Booth at eight major auto shows during 2002. The display will include earplugs, a hearing checklist and decibel chart, and an infant hearing checklist.

The program was launched at the Chicago Auto Show during February 7-17 and a second successful program was held at the San Diego Auto Show during February 13-18. Hearing Awareness Programs are scheduled in the following cities during 2002:

\*

Dallas, TX: February 27 – March 3

\*

Cleveland, OH: March 2 – March 10

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Kansas City, MO: March 6 – March 10

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Minneapolis, MN: March 9 – March 17

\*

New York, NY: March 30 – April 7

\*

Atlanta, GA: April 24 – April 28

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Number of Cochlear Implant Recipients Worldwide Increases

The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) recently released its newest count of worldwide cochlear implant recipients. According to a November 2001 vendor survey by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), there are approximately 70,000 cochlear implant recipients worldwide. Of these, approximately 21,000 reside in the United States; about half are children and half are adults.

For more information about cochlear implants, please visit the NIDCD's website at http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/pubs_hb/coch.htm or the Deafness Research Foundation's website at <http://www.drf.org>.

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Spotlight On: Sonomax

The National Campaign for Hearing Health is pleased to announce that Sonomax Hearing Healthcare Inc. is its newest corporate supporter. Sonomax and the Campaign will provide mutual support for each other in terms of awareness building, public education and advocacy where toxic noise is concerned. In addition, Sonomax will make an annual financial contribution to the Campaign.

The Campaign is grateful for all of its corporate and non-profit partners. For more information about the Campaign's partnerships, please visit our website at <http://www.hearinghealth.net/pages/partnerships/index.html>

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March 2002

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The National Campaign for Hearing Health  
Hear US Grassroots Network  
March 31, 2002

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March has been a busy month, and we are happy to share all of the National Campaign for Hearing Health's updates through this edition of the Hear US e-newsletter. Please feel free to forward it to your friends and colleagues. If you would like additional information about any of the news briefs in this issue or know someone who would like to subscribe, please contact us at hearus@drf.org.

The National Campaign for Hearing Health (NCHH) is working to make a lifetime of hearing possible for all Americans through quality research, education and advocacy. We are fortunate to have advocates like you join us to advance this important cause.

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In this issue:

- \* Final Medicare Reimbursement Rate Issued for Cochlear Implants
- \* Hear US Long Island Hosts Successful Hearing Technology Conference
- \* District of Columbia and Ohio Pass UNHS Legislation
- \* International Noise Awareness Day Approaches
- \* Focus On: Self Help for the Hard of Hearing

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Final Medicare Reimbursement Rate Issued for Cochlear Implants

On March 1st, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published a final rule for reimbursement rates through the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS). OPPS includes the cochlear implant, among other outpatient hospital procedures and accompanying devices. This rule was published a month earlier than expected (see January issue of the Hear US e-newsletter) and contained a very modest increase for the cochlear implant reimbursement rate.

The new published reimbursement rate for the cochlear implant is \$19,279.89, which is a slight increase over the rate proposed in the original rule of \$19,168. This is still short of the median cost of the device, which has been calculated at \$21,513, but a step in the right direction.

We will keep you updated about our efforts to increase the Medicare reimbursement rate for cochlear implants for next year. In the meantime, please visit the CMS website at <http://www.cms.gov> for more information about OPPS and other Medicare reimbursement issues.

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#### Hear US Long Island Hosts Successful Hearing Technology Conference

On March 9th, Hear US Long Island hosted a Hearing Technology Conference in partnership with North Shore University's Hearing and Speech Center. Nearly 250 Hear US members and their families attended the event, which was held at North Shore University Hospital. Presentations covered all aspects of hearing technology and its effect on individuals and families:

\*

Dr. Patricia Chute, Associate Professor, Mercy College: "Cochlear Implant Technology"

\*

Carrie Cleary, Deputy Director, National Campaign for Hearing Health: "How To Be Your Own Advocate"

\*

Dr. Laurie Hanin, Director of Audiology, League for the Hard of Hearing: "Hearing Aid Technology"

\*

Dr. Andrea Vambutas, Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine: "Cochlear Implant Surgery"

\*

Rebecca Kooper, Educational Audiologist, Nassau BOCES Hearing and Vision Services Program: "FM Technology"

\*

Judy Harrison, Coordinator of Educational Services, Beth Israel Medical Center: "Mainstreaming Children With Hearing Loss"

\*

Dr. Linda Glazer, Senior Clinical Social Worker, Long Island Jewish Medical Center: "Coping Strategies"

A number of corporations and non-profit organizations were also on hand to display their products and services.

NCHH appreciates the organizing committee's hard work and dedication to hearing health advocacy, which made the event so successful:

\*

Dr. Lynn Spivak, Director, North Shore University Hearing and Speech Center

\*

Laura Miller, President, Hear US Long Island

\*

Liz Schneider, Vice President, Hear US Long Island

\*

Linda Davidson, Secretary, Hear US Long Island

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Tabitha Tringali, Treasurer, Hear US Long Island

For more information about joining Hear US Long Island, please contact Laura Miller at [HearUSLongIsland@aol.com](mailto:HearUSLongIsland@aol.com).

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District of Columbia and Ohio Pass UNHS Legislation

Mayor Anthony Williams signed the Newborn Hearing Screening Act of 2000 into law in the District of Columbia on January 25, 2002. The legislation was published in the District's Register on February 22, 2002, at which time it entered into an open 30-day comment period. The Newborn Hearing Screening Act is District Bill 13-474, and you can learn more about it by visiting the District of Columbia's website at <http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us>

The Ohio State Legislature also recently finalized infant hearing screening legislation. On October 16, 2001, the House passed HB. 150, and the Senate passed similar legislation on March 19, 2002. The House and Senate concurred on their respective bills on March 20, 2002, and HB. 150 will soon be signed into law. For more information about the legislation, please visit the Ohio State Legislature's website at <http://www.state.oh.us/ohio/legislat.htm> ~~~~~

International Noise Awareness Day Approaches

The seventh International Noise Awareness Day is scheduled to take place on April 24, 2002. The day is sponsored by the League for the Hard of Hearing and includes a host of coalition partners, including the National Campaign for Hearing Health. The day will include hearing screenings at clinics across the country and the Quiet Diet (observing one minute of noise-free time) from 2:15 p.m. to 2:16 p.m. EST. For more information about International Noise Awareness Day, please visit the League for the Hard of Hearing's website at <http://www.lhh.org> ~~~~~

Spotlight On: Self Help for the Hard of Hearing

Self Help for the Hard of Hearing (SHHH) is an association that represents consumers who are hard of hearing. With 250 affiliates across the country, SHHH seeks to enhance the quality of life for people who are hard of hearing through education, advocacy, and self-help. NCHH is proud to partner with SHHH on events such as the upcoming National Day of Hearing Screening (details to come). For more information about SHHH, please visit their website at <http://www.shhh.org>
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April 2002

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The National Campaign for Hearing Health

Hear US Grassroots Network

April 30, 2002

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April has been extremely busy and productive for hearing health, and we are happy to share all of the National Campaign for Hearing Health's updates through this edition of the Hear US e-newsletter. Please feel free to forward it to your friends and colleagues. If you would like additional information about any of the news briefs in this issue or know someone who would like to subscribe, please contact us at [hearus@drf.org](mailto:hearus@drf.org).

The National Campaign for Hearing Health (NCHH) is working to make a lifetime of hearing possible for all Americans through quality research, education and advocacy. We are fortunate to have advocates like you join us to advance this important cause.

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In this issue:

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NCHH Testifies in Front of House Appropriations Committee Regarding Infant Hearing Screening

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NCHH, ASHA and Congressman Walsh (NY) Bring Organizations Together to Lobby for Infant Hearing Screening Funding

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Congressional Hearing Health Caucus Continues to Grow

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Hearing Healthy Kids Day Approaches

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Focus On: Pediatrics

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NCHH Testifies Before Congress Regarding Infant Hearing Screening Funding

On April 23, The National Campaign for Hearing Health presented testimony to a the House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee regarding funding for infant hearing screening.

Lesa Coleman, from Boise, Idaho, testified on behalf of the NCHH as the mother of two daughters with hearing loss. The President's 2003 budget eliminates program funding at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program popularly known as the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS) program. HRSA plays an important role in assisting states develop critical newborn hearing screening, diagnosis, and intervention programs,

linking those programs to the baby's medical home, and providing appropriate support for families.

Mrs. Coleman requested that the Committee provide \$11 million to HRSA so this vital program can continue to assist states develop and implement newborn hearing screening, diagnosis, and intervention programs. Additionally, to complement HRSA's screening program, Mrs. Coleman requested the Committee provide \$12 million for the Centers for Disease Control to manage the critical tracking, surveillance and research efforts related to EHDI programs.

Lesa and her two daughters, Corinne, age nine, and Emily, age seven, did an outstanding job of explaining why early hearing detection and intervention are so important. So much so, that the Chairman of the Committee -- Congressman Regula from Ohio -- and the other Committee members gave them a standing ovation when the two little girls finished their comments. On behalf of DRF and NCHH, an enthusiastic thank you to the Coleman family for coming to DC advocate for funding for newborn hearing screenings.

For a copy of the Coleman's testimony, please log on to [www.hearinghealth.net](http://www.hearinghealth.net). Photos and the Coleman testimony will be posted by Monday, May 6.

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#### NCHH, ASHA and Representative Walsh Collaborate to Gather Health and Hearing Organizations to Draft Report Language Regarding Infant Hearing Screening

In order to ensure that every American newborn has an equal chance to reach their full potential, the organizations below urge Congress to support the following critical health programs in the FY 2003 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill. The original legislation, "Newborn and Infant Hearing Screening and Intervention Act of 1999" (H.R. 1193), was authored by Congressman James. T. Walsh of New York.

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Appropriate \$11 million for the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program of the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) to assist states in screening and follow-up services;

\*

Appropriate \$12 million for the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) under the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to assist states with the tracking, surveillance and applied research components for EHDI; and

\*

Encourage the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) to expand its EHDI clinical research.

As of Friday, April 26, 2002, 17 groups have signed the letter, including the following:

q Deafness Research Foundation and the National Campaign for Hearing Health, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, American Osteopathic Association, American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians, SHHH, AG Bell, Educational Audiology Association, American Association of Audiologists, Easter Seals, American Federation of Teachers, National Association of Private Special Education Centers, and the National Court Reporters Association.

To download a copy of the group letter petitioning for restored funds, log on to [www.hearinghealth.net](http://www.hearinghealth.net).

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### Congressional Hearing Health Caucus Gains Two New Members

The National Campaign for Hearing Health is happy to announce the first Senator to join the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus (CHHC).

Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) has agreed to be the first Senator to participate in the CHHC. NCHH was first introduced to Senator Campbell last winter, when DRF/NCHH honored Spencer Kontnik, age 14, with the Hearing Healthy Kid Award at our Celebration of Hearing Health awards dinner and charity gala. Spencer's mom, Ginnie, is Senator Campbell's Chief of Staff and graciously offered to introduce NCHH and its programs to the Senator. We thank Ginnie and the entire Kontnik family, who have become tireless for NCHH and welcome Senator Campbell to the Caucus.

Also, Representative Bilirakis (R-FL) has joined the CHHC, growing the bi-partisan Caucus membership to eight legislators. Representative Bilirakis and his wife have a personal connection to someone with hearing loss and Mrs. Bilirakis has attended the last two Caucus events.

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### Hearing Healthy Kids Day 2002 Approaches

The third annual Hearing Healthy Kids Day is scheduled to take place on May 21, 2002 on Capitol Hill. NCHH is pleased to announce that this year's update on infant hearing screening in America is in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics. Confirmed speakers include:

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Representative Jim Walsh (R-NY), Congressional Hearing Health Caucus Co-Chair (author of the Walsh Bill)

\*

Representative Jim Ryun (R-KS), Congressional Hearing Health Caucus Co-Chair

\*

Representative Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT)

\*

Louis Z. Cooper, M.D., President of the American Academy of Pediatrics

\*

Kassie & Jim DePaiva, One Life to Live actors and parents of a child with hearing loss

\*

Karl White, Ph.D., National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management

\*

Elizabeth E. Thorp, Director, National Campaign for Hearing Health

Following the event, there will be a free Hearing Healthy Kids Day Fair on the National Mall adjacent to the Washington Monument. Come bring your kids – get your face painted and your hearing tested!

For more information about Hearing Healthy Kids Day, please click on [www.hearinghealth.net](http://www.hearinghealth.net).

The National Campaign for Hearing Health expresses sincere gratitude to our Hearing Healthy Kids Day corporate sponsors (to date):

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Pediatrics Medical Group, Inc. [www.pediatrics.com](http://www.pediatrics.com)

\*

American Academy of Audiology [www.audiology.org](http://www.audiology.org)

\*

Advanced Bionics Corporation [www.advancedbionics.com](http://www.advancedbionics.com)

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GSI Viasys Healthcare [www.newbornhearing.com](http://www.newbornhearing.com)

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MED-EL Cochlear Implants [www.medel.com](http://www.medel.com)

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Jaco Putty Buddies [www.puttybuddies.com](http://www.puttybuddies.com)

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Spotlight On: Pediatrics

The National Campaign for Hearing Health is pleased to announce that Gail Lim, ARNP, Vice President & National Director of the Newborn Hearing Screen Program at Pediatrics Medical Group, Inc. has recently joined the Board of Directors of the Deafness Research Foundation and National Campaign for Hearing Health. Pediatrics is the nation's largest provider of neonatal and maternal-fetal physician services.

Since 1979, Pediatrics has evolved from a small group practice into a national physician group that specializes in both neonatal and maternal-fetal services. Today, Pediatrics employs more than 600 neonatologists and maternal-fetal physician sub specialists, as well as pediatric sub specialists, advanced practitioners and other clinical professionals.

The Pediatrix Newborn Hearing Screen Program offers all children a chance to develop to their fullest potential and receive early treatment through their primary care provider. The Program encourages the screening of all infants for hearing loss before they are discharged, using the most effective, state-of-the-art equipment and AABR procedures, and works diligently with parents in stressing the importance of follow-up care.

For more information about Pediatrix Medical Group, Inc., please visit [www.pediatrix.com](http://www.pediatrix.com).

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May 2002

The National Campaign for Hearing Health

Hear US Grassroots Network

May 31, 2002

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This May - Congressionally recognized Better Hearing and Speech Month -- has been extremely productive for hearing health, and we are happy to share all of the National Campaign for Hearing Health's updates through this edition of the Hear US e-newsletter. Please feel free to forward it to your friends and colleagues. If you would like additional information about any of the news briefs in this issue or know someone who would like to subscribe, please contact us at [hearus@drf.org](mailto:hearus@drf.org).

The National Campaign for Hearing Health (NCHH) is working to make a lifetime of hearing possible for all Americans through quality research, education and advocacy. We are fortunate to have advocates like you join us to advance this important cause.

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In this issue:

- \* Hearing Healthy Kids Day 2002, a Great Success!
- \* NCHH Meets with Several Legislators Regarding Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Funding for FY 2003
- \* NCHH Participates in ASHA's Hearing Health Fair on Capitol Hill

\* Focus On: Hearing Healthy Kids Day Partners

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Hearing Healthy Kids Day 2002 a Great Success

On Tuesday, May 21st, the National Campaign for Hearing Health (NCHH), in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics, held a National Update on Infant Hearing Screening on Capitol Hill. The following is a list of speakers:

- \* Kassie & Jim DePaiva, One Life to Live actors and parents of a child with hearing loss
- \* Louis Z. Cooper, M.D., President of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- \* Karl White, Ph.D., Director of National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management
- \* Elizabeth E. Thorp, Director of the National Campaign for Hearing Health
- \* Representative Jim Walsh (R-NY), Congressional Hearing Health Caucus Co-Chair and author of the Walsh Bill
- \* Representative Jim Ryun (R-KS), Congressional Hearing Health Caucus Co-Chair
- \* Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), Congressional Hearing Health Caucus Co-Chair
- \* Representative Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT)
- \* Representative Betty McCollum (D-MN)
- \* Elvir Causevic, D.Sc., and Mike Scholin, MS, CCC-A, GSI Infant Hearing Screening Demo

The Campaign announced that despite the fact that 37 U.S. states and the District of Columbia have laws mandating hearing screenings at birth only 69% of babies are being screened. The Campaign released its third annual State-by-State Report Card that analyzes the current status of infant screening.

15 Excellent states - Almost all babies are screened (95%+), and a statewide system for coordination, training, quality assurance, and follow up has been established.

22 Good states - At least 75% of babies are screened, and a statewide system for coordination, training, quality assurance, and follow up has been established.

7 Fair states - At least 45% of babies are being screened, and a statewide system for coordination, training, quality assurance, and follow up is being developed.

6 Unsatisfactory states - Less than 44% of babies are being screened.

After the event, HHK Day participants visited with the following Representatives and Senators on Capitol Hill:

- \* Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY)
- \* Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT)

- \* Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
- \* Senator Kit Bond (R-MO)
- \* Representative Todd Akin (R-MO)
- \* Senator Bob Graham (D-FL)
- \* Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL)
- \* Representative David Price (D-NC)
- \* Senator John Edwards (D-NC)

The media coverage from our Hearing Healthy Kids Day has been considerable. Although we expect additional coverage, the National Campaign has been featured in the following outlets:

- \* Ten daily newspapers, including the international edition of the USA Today, Detroit Free Press, Omaha World Herald and the front page of the Albany Times Union. These papers have a total circulation of over 4.1 million readers. Click here to read the USA Today article. <http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2001-05-22-hearing-usat.htm>

- \* Over 50 stories and/or mentions on national television and radio, including WABC-TV CH 7 (ABC) in New York, WUSA-TV CH 9 (CBS) in Washington, NPR Boston, WXIA-TV CH 11 (NBC) in Atlanta and KUSA-TV CH 9 (NBC) in Denver.

After the briefing, NCHH held a free Hearing Healthy Kids Fair from on the grounds of the Washington Monument. Approximately 250 people attended the fair and over 200 Hearing Healthy Kids goodie bags complete with earplugs, games and education materials were handed out. Hearing screenings were conducted onsite by trained audiologists and Advanced Bionics, Pediatrix, GSI Infant Hearing Screening, Nova South Eastern, American Academy of Audiology, and American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) had booths at the fair.

The Hearing Healthy Kids Day State Map, report card and other materials can be seen on the Web.

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#### NCHH Meets with Several Legislators Regarding Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Funding for FY 2003

In order to ensure that every American baby has an equal chance to reach their full potential, NCHH has been meeting with legislators to rally support for the following critical health programs in the FY 2003 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill. The original legislation, "Newborn and Infant Hearing Screening and Intervention Act of 1999" (H.R. 1193), was authored by Congressman James. T. Walsh of New York.

NCHH has met with the following offices on this critical issue:

- \* Representative James Walsh (R-NY)
- \* Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)

- \* Senator Herbert Kohl (D-WI)
- \* Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY)
- \* Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT)
- \* Senator Robert Torricelli (D-NJ)
- \* Senator Kit Bond (R-MO)
- \* Representative Todd Akin (R-MO)
- \* Senator Bob Graham (D-FL)
- \* Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL)
- \* Representative David Price (D-NC)
- \* Senator John Edwards (D-NC)
- \* Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
- \* Representative David Obey (D-WI)

If you would like to write your legislators about restoring funding for infant hearing screening, visit our Legislative Action Center for details.

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#### NCHH Participates in ASHA's Hearing Health Fair on Capitol Hill

The National Campaign for Hearing Health participated in American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)'s Better Hearing and Speech Fair on May 8 along with several other hearing and health organizations. ASHA hosted the fair in conjunction with the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus.

The Caucus co-chairs made opening remarks to kick off the Fair and there was a continual stream of Hill staffers browsing the booths to learn about hearing and speech health, research, disability and education issues.

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#### Spotlight On: Hearing Healthy Kids Day Partners

The National Campaign for Hearing Health would like to thank Pediatrix Medical Group, Inc. as the premier sponsor of Hearing Healthy Kids Day 2002.

In addition, Advanced Bionics Corporation, Grason-Stadler, Med-EI Corporation, the American Academy of Audiology and the American Academy of Otolaryngology - HNS, lent their support as "Red Ribbon" Corporate Partners, and other prominent national organizations, including the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Boys Town National Research Hospital, JACO Enterprises, Inc., Mack's Earplugs, and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders donated items for goody bags distributed at Fair on the National Mall. Nova Southeastern University Programs in Audiology generously provided the free hearing screenings at the fair.

The National Campaign for Hearing Health expresses sincere gratitude to our all our Hearing Healthy Kids Day supporters.

- \* Pediatrix Medical Group, Inc.
- \* Advanced Bionics Corporation
- \* American Academy of Audiology
- \* American Academy of Otolaryngology - HNS
- \* GSI Viasys Healthcare
- \* MED-EL Cochlear Implants
- \* Jaco Putty Buddies

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June 2002

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The National Campaign for Hearing Health  
Hear US Grassroots Network  
July 1, 2002

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June has been successful for hearing health, and we are happy to share all of the National Campaign for Hearing Health's updates through this edition of the Hear US e-newsletter. Please feel free to forward it to your friends and colleagues. If you would like additional information about any of the news briefs in this issue or know someone who would like to subscribe, please contact us at [hearus@drf.org](mailto:hearus@drf.org). Please note that this will be the last Hear US newsletter until September 2002.

The National Campaign for Hearing Health (NCHH) is working to make a lifetime of hearing possible for all Americans through quality research, education and advocacy. We are fortunate to have advocates like you join us to advance this important cause.

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In this issue:

- \* Senior Members of Congress Join the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus
- \* NCHH Continues to Meet with Several Legislators Regarding Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Funding for FY 2003
- \* Next Congressional Hearing Health Caucus Luncheon Scheduled
- \* Focus On: Advanced Brain Technologies

\* Addendum to Hearing Healthy Kids Day 2002 Partners  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Senior Members of Congress Join the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus

NCHH is pleased to announce that Representative C.W. Bill Young (R-FL) has joined the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus. Congressman Young is the senior appropriator in the U.S. Congress and serves as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. Representative Young is committed to hearing health and has a special interest in mandatory infant hearing screening - also known as early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI).

In addition, we are pleased that Representatives Donald M. Payne (D-NJ) and David E. Bonior (D-MI) have also recently joined the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus.

For more information on new CHHC members, logon to  
<http://clerk.house.gov/members/>.

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## NCHH Continues Meetings with Legislators Regarding Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Funding for FY 2003

In order to ensure that every American baby has an equal chance to reach their full potential, NCHH has been meeting with legislators to rally support for the following critical health programs in the FY 2003 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill. The original legislation, "Newborn and Infant Hearing Screening and Intervention Act of 1999" (H.R. 1193), was authored by Congressman James. T. Walsh of New York.

Since our last newsletter, NCHH has met with the following legislators on this critical issue:

- Senator Bill Frist (R-TN)
- Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL)
- Representative C.W. Bill Young (R-FL)

If you would like to write your legislators about restoring funding for infant hearing screening, logon to [www.hearinghealth.net](http://www.hearinghealth.net) and click on "Legislative Action Center."

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## Next Congressional Hearing Health Caucus (CHHC) Luncheon Scheduled

The next Congressional Hearing Health Caucus panel discussion will be held on Wednesday, July 17th at 12:00 p.m. on Capitol Hill. The CHHC panels are open to the public and the July 17th topic will be the Deaf Culture.

Additional details will be sent out via fax in the next week or so. If you would like to be added to the CHHC fax list, please email your name and fax number only to: [hearus@drf.org](mailto:hearus@drf.org).

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### Spotlight On: Advanced Brain Technologies

To raise awareness of the importance of newborn hearing screening and the benefits of hearing health on early development, the National Campaign for Hearing Health (NCHH) is partnering with Advanced Brain Technologies, LLC (ABT), through ABT's newly released "Music for Babies"™ CD's. ABT will include information about newborn hearing screening and NCHH public education and advocacy initiatives, to educate parents about the importance of hearing health and how to raise a hearing healthy child, in the "Music for Babies"™ CD booklets, on the ABT website, and on the "Music for Babies"™ product flyers. A baby hearing checklist will be sent free to parents who request one via a response card placed inside each "Music for Babies"™ CD.

The "Music for Babies"™ series is a break-through for early child development, and is built note by note on the latest discoveries related to brain development in very young children. Created in collaboration with experts across a broad range of scientific and artistic disciplines, each volume helps children achieve their fullest potential.

Advanced Brain Technologies, LLC was founded in 1998 and combines extensive clinical experience with the latest neuroscience and music research to create products, programs and services that enhance health, learning and productivity. Based on over thirty years of clinical research with thousands of individuals at the National Academy for Child Development and with experts in various fields, ABT's growing family of brain-based programs is created to help people reach their fullest potential. For more information about ABT and the "Music for Babies"™ series, visit ABT on the web at [www.advancedbrain.com](http://www.advancedbrain.com).

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### Addendum to Hearing Healthy Kids Day 2002 Partners

The National Campaign for Hearing Health would like to belatedly and very gratefully acknowledge Hearing Health Magazine for their support with our recent Hearing Healthy Kids Day. Hearing Health Magazine donated 250 magazines to NCHH for the adult goodie bags distributed at the fair on the National Mall.

Hearing Health is read worldwide and can be found on newsstands in the U.S. and Canada. Published quarterly, it remains the only independent publication of its kind - a true consumer guide on hearing issues. Hearing Health is clearly the "go-to" resource for people seeking information about the ear, hearing disorders and deafness and can be found on the web at [www.hearinghealthmag.com](http://www.hearinghealthmag.com).

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September/October 2002

The National Campaign for Hearing Health  
Hear US Grassroots Network  
November 1, 2002

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September and October have been very busy and productive for hearing health, and we are happy to share the National Campaign for Hearing Health's updates through this edition of the Hear US e-newsletter. Please feel free to forward it to your friends and colleagues. If you would like additional information about any of the news briefs in this issue or know someone who would like to subscribe, please contact us at [hearus@drf.org](mailto:hearus@drf.org).

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In this issue:

- \* New Members Join the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus
- \* FY 2003 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Final Rule Released for Cochlear Implant Reimbursement
- \* General Motors and NCHH Launch Second Annual Hearing Health Awareness Program at Auto Shows
- \* Deafness Research Foundation Appoints New Members to the Board of Directors
- \* Advanced Bionics Corporation Receives FDA Approval of New, High Resolution Clarion® Cii Bionic Ear™ System
- \* Spotlight On: General Motors Donates Luxury Vehicle for DRF/NCHH 2003 Gala

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## New Members Join the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus

NCHH is pleased to announce that the following legislators have joined the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus since our last update:

- \* Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY),
- \* Congressman John B. Larson (D-CT),
- \* Congressman Jim Ramstad (R-MN),
- \* Congressman Timothy V. Johnson (R-IL) and
- \* Congressman Howard Berman (D-CA).

All of the new CHHC members have been advocates for health care and children and we are grateful and proud to be working with them to make hearing health a national priority. For more information on the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus, logon to [www.hearinghealth.net](http://www.hearinghealth.net) and then click on "Hearing Health – Capitol Hill" under "Get Involved."

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## FY 2003 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Final Rule Released for Cochlear Implant Reimbursement

As reported in earlier issues of the HearUs E-newsletters, the proposed 2003 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) rule for cochlear implants was released in early August. The proposed device payment rate has dropped significantly since last year despite NCHH and other organizations' communications with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on this issue.

The proposed rule revealed the reimbursement rate under APC 259 for FY 2003 of \$15,137 is for the device AND the procedure. Compared to the current rate of \$19,280, this represented a significant reduction to a level that is half of what manufacturers indicated for the approximate cost of the device and procedure.

The National Campaign for Hearing Health worked with the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus, advocates, physicians, organizations and manufacturers to submit comments to CMS during the 60-day comment period. We received over 100 of your automatic letters generated on the Legislative Action Center on [www.hearinghealth.net](http://www.hearinghealth.net). Your letters, combined with others from physicians, hospitals and other individuals were submitted with a cover letter on behalf of the Deafness Research Foundation and National Campaign for Hearing Health in early October.

On Thursday, October 31, 2002, CMS released the final rule for CI reimbursement at \$19,173.14. Although the final rule is higher than the proposed rate, it is less than the current rate and continues to pose barriers to the access of CI technology.

For the past few months, the National Campaign for Hearing Health has been working on The Cochlear Implant Accessibility Act with Congressman Adam Schiff's office (D-CA), our Congressional Hearing Health Caucus and other hearing organizations. We will continue to support the bill and provide updates on our progress.

Thanks to everyone who wrote their legislators via our Legislative Action Center regarding this important hearing health issue.

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### General Motors and NCHH Launch Second Annual Hearing Health Awareness Program at Auto Shows

Expanding on last year's hearing health awareness program at eight major auto shows, Pontiac-GMC, Division of General Motors Corporation, has again joined forces with NCHH. The hearing health awareness program will be re-launched at the Miami auto show in November 2002 and will be featured at sixteen auto shows around the country.

Auto show attendees can stop by the NCHH display at the Pontiac-GMC Information Booth to receive free Mack's® Earplugs, a hearing checklist, a decibel chart, and a baby hearing checklist.

The auto shows with scheduled Hearing Health Awareness Program's include:

| Auto Show Dates   | City/State     |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 11/08/02-11/17/02 | Miami          |
| 12/26/02-01/01/03 | Washington, DC |
| 12/27/02-01/01/03 | Indianapolis   |
| 01/01/03-01/05/03 | San Diego      |
| 01/10/03-01/20/03 | Detroit        |
| 01/24/03-02/02/03 | Houston        |
| 01/29/03-02/02/03 | St. Louis      |
| 02/13/03-02/23/03 | Cleveland      |
| 03/05/03-03/09/03 | Kansas City    |

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 03/11/03-03/16/03 | Atlanta     |
| 03/14/03-03/23/03 | Columbus    |
| 03/15/03-03/23/03 | Minneapolis |
| 03/25/03-03/30/03 | Dallas      |
| 04/18/03-04/27/03 | New York    |

For more information about the Hearing Health Awareness Program, please call 1-800-535-3323, or visit the NCHH website at [www.hearinghealth.net](http://www.hearinghealth.net).

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### Deafness Research Foundation Appoints New Members to the Board of Directors

The Deafness Research Foundation (DRF) and National Campaign for Hearing Health (NCHH) is pleased to announce the appointments of the following new members of the Board of Directors. The new terms began on October 1, 2002.

K.J. Lee, M.D., F.A.C.S. Dr. Lee's appointment began on October 1, 2002 and is a one-year term. Simultaneously, Dr. Lee will serve as President of Deafness Research Foundation's Centurions, a national membership society of noted ENT's that are dedicated to advancing hearing health research.

Lee is Managing Partner at the Southern New England Ear, Nose, Throat, Facial Plastic Surgery Group in New Haven, Connecticut. He has published 15 textbooks, one of which is in its eighth edition and is considered one of the most-read texts in the world in otolaryngology in three decades. He is the former President of the American Academy of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery/Foundation.

Gail Lim, ARNP, Vice President and National Director of the Newborn Hearing Screen Program at Pediatrix Medical Group, Inc. Pediatrix is the nation's largest provider of neonatal and maternal-fetal physician services.

Ms. Lim joined Pediatrix in 1993 as a neonatal nurse practitioner and was promoted to Vice President in January 2001. In 1998, she was appointed National Director, Newborn Hearing Screen Program and continues to serve in this position. Ms. Lim has been responsible for building Pediatrix's hearing screen business to its present status as the nation's largest newborn hearing screen program. She is also recognized as a national leader in academic and governmental circles for her work in promoting universal hearing screening.

Jean Nicholas Laperle, LL.B., founder, President and Chief Operating Officer of Sonomax Hearing Healthcare, Inc. Sonomax, based in Montreal, Canada, has developed and now manufactures a new generation of hearing protection devices that effectively combat noise-induced hearing loss in the industrial workplace. Sonomax provides watershed hearing protection technology by providing instant, custom-fitted, and individually calibrated hearing protection to provide measurable filtration from toxic noise.

Mr. Laperle oversees the direction and execution of Sonomax's marketing and strategic operations while maintaining an ongoing role in the research and development of new products geared toward the consumer. Before founding Sonomax, Mr. Laperle administered workers' compensation claims at Gaudet & Associates Inc., a Canadian company in the field of hearing healthcare owned by his family since 1963.

Michael Scholin, M.S., CCC-A, North American Sales Director for Grason-Stadler, a division of VIASYS Healthcare, Inc. Grason-Stadler is the most respected Audiometric equipment manufacturer serving the world community for over 52 years. Grason-Stadler (GSI) is the leader in the field of clinical and screening hearing instrumentation. Every Audiologist throughout the world is familiar with a GSI clinical audiometer or tympanometer. Recently, GSI was the first to bring to market the Auditory Steady State Response (ASSR) diagnostic system, which provides frequency-specific threshold information on those infants who fail a hearing screening. This is the "next" step to newborn hearing management. Mr. Scholin was also responsible for bringing the Everest AUDIOscreeener technology to GSI, introducing to the world the revolutionary new technology that combines evoked otoacoustic emissions (OAE) and auditory evoked response (ABR) into a single, handheld, PC-free unit for advance and reliable hearing screening.

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#### Advanced Bionics Corporation Receives FDA Approval of New, High Resolution Clarion® Cii Bionic Ear™ System

Advanced Bionics® Corporation recently announced it received approval from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and Health Canada to market its high resolution CLARION® CII Bionic Ear™ System. "The FDA and Health Canada approvals of our high resolution system open the doors to a new level of sound fidelity for cochlear implant users," stated Jeff Greiner, President and Co-Chief Executive Officer.

The FDA approval includes the new High Resolution Sound Processing software, which had been in clinical trials for the last year. High Resolution Sound Processing is designed to provide deaf adults and children the fine details of sound and a more natural hearing nerve response. This new technology is already approved in Canada. Advanced Bionics will commercially release the software used to program High Resolution Sound Processing to U.S. and Canadian cochlear implant centers in 2003.

In addition, the FDA approval has lowered the age at implantation in the United States from 18-months down to 12-months. The system was already available to Canadian children 12 months of age and older.

For additional information on this new cochlear implant technology, please visit [www.bionicear.com](http://www.bionicear.com).

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### Spotlight On: General Motors Donates Luxury Vehicle for DRF/NCHH 2003 Gala

We are happy to report that for a second year in a row, General Motors is donating a GMC Envoy (2003) for DRF/NCHH's Gala raffle. DRF's 45th Anniversary Gala and the drawing for the Envoy will take place on October 23, 2003 in New York City.

Please help support hearing health research, public education and advocacy by purchasing raffle tickets. Tickets are tax-deductible and will be available for purchase online at [www.hearinghealth.net](http://www.hearinghealth.net) in January 2003.

A heartfelt thank you to General Motors Corporation and Larry Burns, a DRF Board Member and senior executive at GM for this generous gift. For more information about the 2003 GMC Envoy, logon to <http://www.gmc.com/gmcjsp/envoy/>.

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November/December 2002

The National Campaign for Hearing Health  
Hear US Grassroots Network  
January 6, 2003

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November and December have been busy and productive for hearing health, and we are happy to share the National Campaign for Hearing Health's updates through this edition of the Hear US e-newsletter. Please feel free to forward it to your friends and colleagues. If you would like additional information about any of the news briefs in this issue or know someone who would like to subscribe, please contact us at [hearus@drf.org](mailto:hearus@drf.org).

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In this issue:

- \* Present and New Members of the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus
- \* Deafness Research Foundation Purchases Hearing Health Magazine
- \* Potential Appropriations and Budget Changes Affect Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention

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Present and New Members of the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus

NCHH would like to bring to your attention the members of the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus that have supported us and helped us reach our goals in the area of hearing health. We would like to thank them for all their efforts and dedication to this cause.

Co-Chairs:

- Congressman Jim Walsh (R-NY)
- Congresswoman Lois Capps (D-CA)
- Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)
- Congressman Jim Ryun (R-KS)

Other Caucus members include:

- Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO)
- Congressman C.W. Bill Young (R-FL)
- Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
- Congressman Michael Bilirakis (R-FL)
- Congressman Donald M. Payne (D-NJ)

- Congressman David E. Bonior (D-MI)
- Congressman Adam B. Schiff (D-CA)
- Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY)
- Congressman John B. Larson (D-CT)
- Congressman Jim Ramstad (R-MN)
- Congressman Timothy V. Johnson (R-IL)
- Congressman Howard Berman (D-CA)

The following legislator joined the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus since our last update:

- Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI)

Senator Inouye has been an advocate for health care and children and we are grateful and proud to be working with him to make hearing health a national priority. For more information on the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus, logon to [www.hearinghealth.net](http://www.hearinghealth.net) and then click on "Hearing Health-Capitol Hill" under "Get Involved."

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## Deafness Research Foundation Purchases Hearing Health Magazine

We are proud to announce that this past November the Deafness Research Foundation (DRF), sponsor of NCHH, purchased Hearing Health, a print and on-line publication. For the past 19 years, Hearing Health was solely owned, published and edited by founder Paula Bonillas.

As the new publisher of Hearing Health, DRF will continue to bring readers the same useful information that the magazine has always provided with a focus on our mission to increase awareness of real-world applications of hearing research, technology and trends, and to educate people about the effects of hearing loss on health and quality of life. Special attention will be given to advocacy efforts on all issues relating to hearing loss and deafness. In addition, the editors are already planning a unique online exclusive resource edition for championing hearing health in national and local

governments.

Hearing Health is a quarterly, subscription publication with the next issue to be released in March 2003.

For more information and to subscribe, please visit our web site [www.hearinghealthmag.com](http://www.hearinghealthmag.com) or contact [info@hearinghealthmag.com](mailto:info@hearinghealthmag.com) or call 202-289-5850.

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### Potential Appropriations and Budget Changes Affect Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention

Last month we alerted you to potential appropriations and budget changes that could greatly affect crucial federal funding for universal newborn hearing screening and intervention. NCHH encouraged you to contact your Senators to weigh in on this issue and there is still time to do so and make a difference.

Earlier this year, NCHH, along with several other hearing organizations, developed language and provided congressional testimony that encouraged the Senate set aside at least \$11 million for the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) for universal newborn hearing screening and early intervention activities. The Senate's recommendation was \$13 million -- \$2 million more than our original budget request and a major achievement for hearing issues.

However, in the new year, Congress will be asked to pass the President's proposed budget—a reduced budget that does not include any funding for universal newborn hearing screening and intervention through HRSA.

We need your help to reach key Senators and let them know that the education, future livelihood and quality of life of the 33 American babies born each day with hearing loss, is at stake and that the \$13 million dollars previously ear-marked for universal newborn hearing screening and intervention must be kept in the FY03 budget.

If you would like to help decrease the chances of reduced funding for universal newborn screening and intervention contact your Senators or write Senator Specter, who will become Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and ask him to maintain the current funding level in FY03.

Senator Arlen Specter (PA)

E-mail: [senator\\_specter@mail.senate.gov](mailto:senator_specter@mail.senate.gov)

We will continue to keep you posted on the Appropriations process via e-alerts and our website at [www.hearinghealth.net](http://www.hearinghealth.net).

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May 2003

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The National Campaign for Hearing Health

Hear US Grassroots Network

May 19, 2003

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During Better Hearing & Speech Month, we are pleased to share the National Campaign for Hearing Health's updates through this edition of the Hear US e-newsletter. Please feel free to forward it to your friends and colleagues.

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In this issue:

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New Members Join the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus

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Congressional Hearing Health Caucus Panel on Cochlear Implants a Success

\*

NCHH and Other Hearing Organizations Fight for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Screening Funding for FY04

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NCHH, American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Center of Hearing Assessment and Management to Release New Infant Hearing Screening Figures for

U.S.

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## New Members Join the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus

NCHH is pleased to announce that Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN), and Congressman Joseph Hoeffel (D-PA) have joined the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus.

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Now in his third term in the United States Senate, Connecticut's Joe Lieberman has earned a national reputation as a thoughtful, principled, and effective legislator. He is perhaps best known as the Democratic candidate for Vice President in 2000 and is a candidate for the 2004 Democratic nomination for President. But more than that, he is a national leader who works across party lines to find common ground, who speaks his conscience, and who gets things done for his constituents and his country. That reputation is based on a diverse and distinguished record that focuses on healthcare, education and strengthening America's families. Lieberman is Ranking Member and former Chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, which is responsible for assuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the Federal Government. In addition, he is a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee; of the Armed Services Committee, where he is Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on AirLand Forces and sits on the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities; and of the Small Business Committee.

\*

On January 3, Frank Pallone, Jr. was officially sworn in for his seventh full term in the U.S. House of Representatives. Representative Pallone continues to serve as a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over issues pertaining to energy, environment, health care, commerce and telecommunications. Pallone was also appointed the Ranking Democrat of the committee's Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, as well as a member of the committee's Health Care Subcommittee. Pallone also continues to serve on the House Resources Committee, where he sits on the Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee and the National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee.

\*

Betty McCollum is a Democrat serving her second term in Congress representing Minnesota's Fourth District. With her election in 2000, McCollum became only the second Minnesota woman elected to Congress since statehood in 1858. Throughout her public life, Betty McCollum has championed excellence in education, protecting the environment, and expanding health care access. McCollum is a member of the Education and Workforce Committee and a fierce advocate for equal opportunity in higher education. In the 108th Congress, McCollum has taken a seat on the International Relations Committee and serves on the Resources Committee. Representative McCollum was a keynote speaker at the National Campaign for Hearing Health's Hearing Healthy Kids Day 2002.

\*

Congressman Joe Hoeffel is a Democratic Member of Congress from Pennsylvania's 13th District. Hoeffel is a member of the International Relations Committee, and Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He is serving his third term in Congress and is committed to healthcare issues, education and has fought for the Patients' Bill of Rights that would reform HMOs.

DRF/NCHH is proud to welcome Senator Joseph Lieberman, Congressman Frank Pallone, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, and Congressman Joseph Hoeffel to the Caucus to help make hearing health a national priority. For more information on the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus a logon to <http://www.hearinghealth.net/> and then click on "Hearing Health – Capitol Hill" under "Get Involved."

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### Congressional Hearing Health Caucus Panel on Cochlear Implants a Success

On April 30th, in a room full of Members of Congress, Hill staffers and hearing health advocates, the National Campaign for Hearing Health made a presentation to the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus on Cochlear Implant Technology & Reimbursement. The panel featured the following speakers:

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Congressman Jim Walsh (R-NY), co-chair of the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus and hearing health advocate.

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Donna L. Sorkin, VP of Consumer Affairs of Cochlear Corporation and enthusiastic cochlear implant user since 1992.

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Alfred E. Mann, Chairman and Co-Chief Executive Officer of Advanced Bionics Corporation and innovator and entrepreneur in the field of medical technology.

In addition, the following Representatives attended the Caucus panel:

Congresswoman Lois Capps (D-CA), Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA), Congressman Jim Ryun (R-KS), Congressman Howard Berman (D-CA) and Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA).

DRF/NCHH would like to thank the American Academy of Audiology [www.audiology.org](http://www.audiology.org) for co-sponsoring this important Caucus briefing. The Academy promotes quality hearing and balance care by advancing the profession of audiology through leadership, advocacy, education, public awareness and support of research.

The Congressional Hearing Health Caucus was founded in January 2001, and is a bipartisan caucus of members of Congress committed to the support of hearing health issues. The Caucus is chaired by Representatives Jim Walsh (R-NY), Lois Capps (D-

CA), Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), and Jim Ryun (R-KS).

The complete transcript of the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus on cochlear implants as well as photographs will be posted on [www.hearinghealth.net](http://www.hearinghealth.net) by Friday, May 23.

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### NCHH and Other Hearing Organizations Fight for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Screening Funding for FY04

NCHH, AAA and ASHA have collectively drafted language and taken the lead with respect to Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Screening (EHDI) funding. Below is a group sign on letter to members of Congress to support Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) in the FY2004 Labor, HHS Education Appropriations bill.

Hearing loss continues to be one of the most common birth defects in America. The Newborn Infant Hearing Screening and Intervention Act of 1999 (as introduced by Representative James Walsh), was incorporated as Title VI of the Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations Act of 1999, and signed into law. This law has enabled federal funds for state grants to develop infant hearing screening and intervention programs. Congress also identified several specific goals to address the problem of hearing loss in children through the Children's Health Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-310), including early hearing screening and evaluation of all newborns, coordinated intervention and rehabilitation services, and ongoing applied research to better understand the learning and developmental needs of deaf or hard-of-hearing children.

If your group is not listed below and you wish to sign on, please contact Jim Potter at ASHA [jpotter@asha.org](mailto:jpotter@asha.org) or Jodi Chappell at AAA at [jchappell@audiology.org](mailto:jchappell@audiology.org).

\* \* \* \* \*

To Members of the United States Congress:

Every day 33 babies are born in the United States with permanent hearing loss making it one of the most frequently occurring birth defects. Then found early, intervention and treatment can produce dramatic improvements in child speech and language development. However, only just over 50% of those currently diagnosed with hearing loss receive early intervention. To ensure appropriate early intervention, states need greater federal assistance to help initiate appropriate screening, follow-up services and tracking programs.

The federal seed grants to states passed in 1999 have helped bring about significant progress in state early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI) programs. Prior to this assistance, the percentage of babies being reported as receiving a hearing screen in July 1998 was 22%, compared to the considerable increase after the program's

implementation to 69% in May 2002. These results validate the need for continued federal participation to help ensure that all states and U.S. territories are given the opportunity to successfully put in place comprehensive EHDI programs so that no child is left behind.

A commitment to achieving the early diagnosis and intervention for hearing loss for our nation's children will also require cooperation and coordination among federal agencies, professional and consumer organizations.

To ensure that every American newborn child has an equal chance to reach their full potential, the signatories of this letter to urge Congress to support the following critical health programs in the FY 2004 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill:

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Appropriate \$11 million for the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program of the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) to assist states in screening and follow-up services;

\*

Appropriate \$9 million for the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) under the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to assist states with the tracking, surveillance and applied research components for quality assurance and cost effectiveness in EHDI programs; and

\*

Encourage the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders(NIDCD) to expand its EHDI clinical research.

Thank you for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ORGANIZATIONS THAT SIGNED ON TO THE FY 2003 EHDI GROUP LETTER

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Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology

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Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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American Academy of Audiology

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American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgeons

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American Academy of Pediatrics

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American Association of People with Disabilities

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American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians
- \*  
American Federation of Teachers
- \*  
American Medical Association
- \*  
American Osteopathic Association
- \*  
American Society for Deaf Children
- \*  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- \*  
Auditory-Verbal International
- \*  
Cochlear Implant Association, Inc.
- \*  
Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf
- \*  
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
- \*  
Consumer Action Network
- \*  
Council for Exceptional Children
- \*  
Council of Organizational Representatives
- \*  
Deafness Research Foundation
- \*  
Easter Seals
- \*  
Educational Audiology Association
- \*  
League for the Hard of Hearing
- \*  
March of Dimes
- \*  
National Association of Private Special Education Centers
- \*  
National Association of the Deaf
- \*  
National Campaign for Hearing Health
- \*  
National Court Reporters Association
- \*  
National Education Association

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## Self Help for Hard of Hearing People

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NCHH, American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Center of Hearing Assessment and Management to Release New Infant Hearing Screening Figures for the U.S.

In June 2003, the National Campaign for Hearing Health, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management will be releasing new infant hearing screening figures for the U.S. This will be NCHH fourth-annual Hearing Healthy Kids Day and update on the status of infant hearing screening in America. In May 2002, NCHH announced infant hearing screening was at 69% -- only up four percentage points from the previous update.

NCHH will be releasing an updated State Map of U.S. States reflecting their percentage of babies being screened for hearing loss at birth as well as a State Report Card grading each state's efforts.

Karl White, Ph.D., Director of NCHAM, is optimistic about the new figures and estimates the new data will reflect a significant increase to at least 80% of babies being screened for hearing loss in America. Although this will be excellent news, it is critical to continue Federal Funding of EHDI programs in order to make sure every child has a hearing healthy start in life. The 2003 Hearing Healthy Kids data will be posted on [www.hearinghealth.net](http://www.hearinghealth.net) at the end of June.

For more information on EHDI programs, legislative updates and federal funding, go to [www.infantheating.org](http://www.infantheating.org) or NCHH's website listed above.

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LINK:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20031011133027/www.hearinghealth.net/cms/index.cfm?displayArticle=56>

