

**DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES  
APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1990**

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**HEARINGS**

BEFORE A

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED FIRST CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H.R. 2990/H.R. 3566**

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1990, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Part 2 (pages 1-1257)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DEAFNESS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION  
DISORDERS**

**STATEMENT OF DR. JAY MOSKOWITZ, ACTING DIRECTOR**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT**

**Senator HARKIN.** Next is the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, and Dr. Moskowitz.

**Dr. Moskowitz.** Thank you, sir.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to appear before this committee as the Acting Director of the newly created National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, and to serve on behalf of the 30 million Americans who suffer from hearing, balance, speech, language, smell, taste, and other communication disorders.

At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for all the Americans who suffer from the silent handicaps within the mission of the Institute, as well as those in the deaf cultural community for your support in the Institute's establishment.

Since October 1988, we have made much progress. We have initiated a nationwide search for a permanent director. We have considered and submitted to the Secretary nominations for membership of the newly chartered Advisory Board and Advisory Council. We have identified programs in deafness and other communication disorders totaling a comparable figure of approximately \$94.8 million for transfer from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

In addition, a Task Force for the Development of a National Research Strategy for Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, composed of 11 panels of experts, was convened to assist the NIDCD in preparing a plan to initiate, expand, intensify, and coordinate the activities of the Institute respecting disorders of hearing, balance, voice, speech, language, taste, and smell.

The plan describes the state of the knowledge in the major areas of research within the purview of the new Institute, identifies emerging research opportunities, and suggests over 300 approaches to meeting current and projected needs.

Time permits me to describe just one of the most recent research accomplishments that will serve as the foundation for the activities under this new Institute.

The production of sensory cells in the ears of birds and mammals was thought to cease well before the time of birth, therefore, it was assumed that any subsequent loss of auditory and vestibular hair cells in birds and mammals, as a result of disease, drug therapy, loud noise, or aging, would permanently damage the sense of hearing and balance.