

**DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2000**

HEARINGS
BEFORE A
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

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PART 4A

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1999.

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

WITNESSES

**JAMES F. BATTEY, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DEAFNESS
AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DISORDERS**

DONALD H. LUECKE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

PATIENCE T. SPARKS, BUDGET OFFICER

DERWOOD O'QUINN, INTERPRETER

DR. HAROLD VARMUS, M.D., DIRECTOR, NIH

**DENNIS P. WILLIAMS, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, BUDGET,
DHHS**

Mr. PORTER. Next we continue our hearings with the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. We are pleased to welcome Dr. James Battey, the director.

Dr. Battey, you have some people with you that I would ask you to introduce and then proceed with your statement.

INTRODUCTION OF WITNESSES

Dr. BATTEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Porter. It is a pleasure to be here.

On my far left is Ms. Patience Sparks, Budget Officer for NIDCD. Sitting immediately to the left of me is Dr. Donald Luecke, my Deputy Director. Sitting to the right of me are two individuals I think well known to the committee who need no introduction. [Laughter.]

Thank you very much.

OPENING STATEMENT

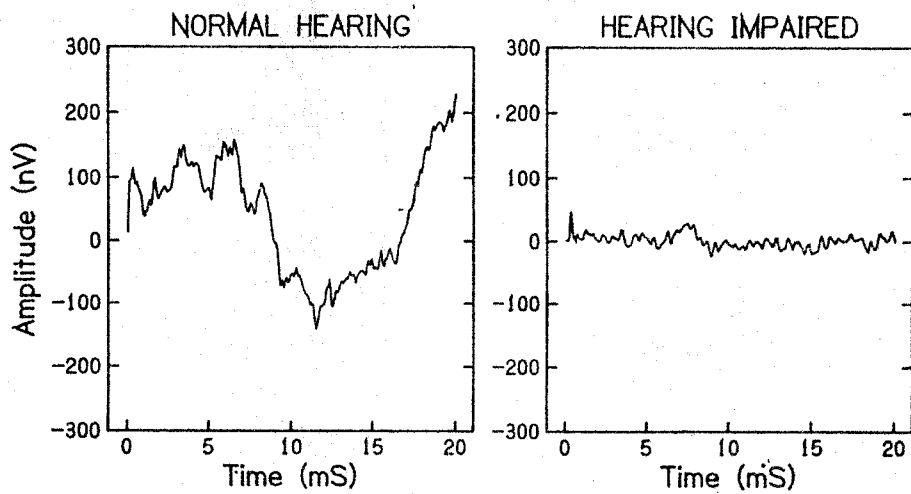
Dr. BATTEY. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the President in his 2000 budget has proposed that the NIDCD receive \$235.3 million, an increase of \$5.6 million over the non-AIDS portion of the comparable fiscal year 1999 appropriation. Including the estimated allocation for AIDS in both years, total support proposed for NIDCD is \$237.2 million, an increase of \$5.6 million over our fiscal year 1999 appropriation. Funds for NIDCD efforts in AIDS research are included within the Office of AIDS Research budget request. I am honored to appear before you as the director of NIDCD.

Within the last year, we have witnessed outstanding research progress by NIDCD-supported scientists and clinicians, which is lighting the path for ongoing and future research studies to achieve a pressing goal: to help individuals with communication and sensory systems disorders.

NIDCD-supported research shows that children with hearing impairment who are identified and receive intervention within the first 6 months of life develop considerably better language skills than children whose hearing impairment is identified at a later time. This language advantage was observed across all tested ages, communication modes, degrees of hearing loss, and in all socioeconomic strata.

In the future, approximately 19 States will implement programs to screen all neonates for hearing impairment before they are discharged from the hospital. I thought I would share with the committee one of the effective methods that is currently available for screening infants for hearing impairment. If I could direct your attention to the chart on the easel over there, you will see two panels, one labelled normal hearing and the other labelled hearing impaired.

[The information follows:]



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Measurement of Sound-Induced Brain Electrical Activity

Exhibit 1