

21 Shea Court  
Madison, WI 53717  
February 8, 2001

John Flanders  
Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Dear Mr. Flanders,

I understand you are advocating for preservation of portions of the Radio spectrum devoted to FM systems for the hard of hearing. My husband and I believe unequivocally that the FCC must maintain these vitally necessary radio bands and not sell them off for commercial purposes.

Our 10 year old son is hard of hearing and has used an assistive listening FM system in preschool and then regular school every day of every year since he was three years old. There is no doubt whatsoever that his learning would be seriously jeopardized without his FM. On those rare occasions when there is a problem with the FM system, we have learned, first hand, how serious the problem could be. He has been fortunate to escape, thus far, radio interference, but his teacher has had children receive unwanted commercial conversations over their FMs during school. We have been forewarned that the radio bands available are already so narrow that multiple hard of hearing children within a school may interfere with one another, and alluding to the possibility of having to tamper with children's academic programming or even switching schools.

If our country truly believes that no child is to be left behind academically, then maintaining the hearing capacity of hard of hearing children in school must take priority over commercial gain. We support you strongly in your defense of the 216-217 Mhz portion of the radio spectrum for the hard of hearing.

Sincerely yours,

Karen Manning  
Daniel Uhrich