

Re: CG Docket No. 02-311 – Biennial Review 2002 Comments

Dear FCC:

Thank you for welcoming comments regarding cells phone compatibility with hearing aids.

I am helping spearhead an initiative that aims to greatly increase telecoil use in the United States (see [www.hearingloop.org](http://www.hearingloop.org)), thus enabling broadcast sound everywhere to be delivered directly via hearing aids. Happily, telecoils are becoming more prevalent. They are in the latest Cochlear Corporation cochlear implant, and Advanced Bionics tells me they are coming in Clarion cochlear implants. Starkey and Phonak report that telecoils are now in more than 40 percent of their hearing aids. Carsten Trad, president of GN ReSound North America, the #2 hearing aid manufacturer, tells me telecoils are in *80 percent* of the 800 hearing aids they ship daily.

All this means that more and more Americans will appreciate and benefit from telecoil-compatible cell phones, and it is therefore becoming more and more important that telecoil compatibility be maintained.

With my thanks for your consideration,

David Myers  
[www.davidmyers.org](http://www.davidmyers.org)

Also, for your information (official statement):

Michigan Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (Michigan SHHH) has adopted the following resolution.

*Whereas* the number of hard of hearing persons needing assistive listening is fast growing (as the population ages and as the accumulated effects of toxic noise produce an increased rate of hearing loss), and

*Whereas* hard of hearing persons prefer assistive listening systems that

- are hassle-free (requiring no locating, requesting, and returning of external receivers and headsets),
- are inconspicuous,
- work in transient venues such as ticket counters, teller windows, and airports,
- entail no hygienic concerns regarding public ear pads/buds,
- deliver personalized in-the-ear sound, customized by their own hearing aids to address their own hearing loss, and
  - Will therefore become more widely used than assistive listening devices that require special receivers and headsets,

*Therefore*, on behalf of Michigan's hard of hearing persons, Michigan SHHH recommends that Michigan's churches, auditoriums, theaters, courts, airports, and other venues where sound is

broadcast *install assistive listening systems that broadcast sound directly through hearing aids*. We further recommend that, as mandated by the Federal Access Board, such newly installed systems also provide receivers with appropriate accessory for those as yet without suitably equipped hearing aids.

Adopted: October 20, 2002