



11480 Commerce Park Drive tel 800-AAA-2336  
Suite 220 fax 703-790-8631  
Reston, VA 20191 www.audiology.org

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Daniel Perez  
Florida House of Representatives  
420 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

**Submitted via email:** [daniel.perez@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:daniel.perez@myfloridahouse.gov)

Dear Speaker Perez,

The American Academy of Audiology appreciates the opportunity to provide our feedback on Florida House Bill 101 and its companion Senate Bill 126. The Academy is the largest organization of, by, and for audiologists. We are dedicated to providing quality hearing and balance care services through professional development, education, research, and increased public awareness of hearing and balance disorders.

We are writing to express our serious concerns regarding HB 101 and its companion bill, SB 126, which recently passed the Florida Senate. We support efforts to remove outdated barriers to access, including the state's mail-order hearing aid ban. However, we are concerned about how these changes have progressed. As professionals with specialized education and expertise in hearing healthcare, we believe audiologists, physicians, and hearing instrument specialists are critical resources for the legislature on matters that affect our practices and the well-being of Floridians. We urge a more collaborative and transparent approach, one that actively involves healthcare experts in the decision-making process to ensure policies are grounded in the best interests of the public.

The Academy acknowledges the positive aspects of HB 101, particularly the provisions that ensure all testing is conducted by a licensed audiologist or a hearing instrument specialist before a prescription hearing aid can be mailed. Additionally, we appreciate the flexibility the bill provides by allowing the use of emerging technologies, including telehealth, without mandating a specific method. This enables future advancements in care and ensures that patients who may face challenges are not excluded. However, we are concerned that HB 101 does not adequately protect Florida's most vulnerable citizens—children—who require specialized care and attention.

In contrast, SB 126, as passed, significantly weakens patient protections. Removing essential testing requirements, that were originally included, opens the door for the distribution of prescription hearing aids by mail without the necessary safeguards. Moreover, by mandating telehealth as the exclusive delivery method, this legislation limits patient access to options that may be more suitable for them. The removal of these critical statutes undermines the foundation of comprehensive care, which relies on thorough evaluations and complete hearing-related case

history as part of the consumer protection framework. We are aware that removing these references does not negate the applicability of these statutes. However, the omission of these references leaves room for the development of new regulations for telehealth testing procedures, an area where current products fail to meet standards set by the existing statutes.

Considering our concerns, we respectfully ask that you retain the current provisions in HB 101 but amend the language to include the necessary protections for children. If amended, the Academy and Audiologists in Florida would fully support the bill. However, as it currently stands, HB 101 fails to protect children and leaves critical gaps in safeguards. Additionally, we urge you to vote against SB 126, as it endangers consumer protections and poses significant risks to the health and safety of Florida's residents.

The American Academy of Audiology recognizes the need to modernize outdated statutes and regulations in its evolution to meet the needs of patients. However, we aim to increase access to hearing healthcare while maintaining vital consumer protections. For these reasons, we respectfully request you amend HB 101 and vote no on SB 126. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss these concerns further, please feel free to reach out to Joanne Zurcher MPP, VP of Government Relations & Policy at [jzurcher@audiology.org](mailto:jzurcher@audiology.org). Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Gaffney AuD, MPH". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Patricia Gaffney, AuD, MPH  
President of the American Academy of Audiology

CC:

Members of the full House Health & Human Services Committee

Senator Jim Boyd, Senate Majority Leader

Senator Bradley, Senate Bill 126 Sponsor