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October 6, 2023

Submitted via Email to:

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*Please note that the views expressed in this testimony are solely my own and do not represent the official stance of my affiliated Department.*

RE: Testimony for the State of Massachusetts Senate:  
An Act concerning induction loop listening system installation Bill S.1969

Chairperson and esteemed members of the State of Massachusetts Senate,

I appreciate this opportunity to provide my perspective on the integration of induction loop systems in various public assembly areas and service counters. Regrettably, I am unable to join in person and present my views.

In the United States, "[a]pproximately 48 million Americans have some degree of hearing loss, and"[i] less than two million use ASL.[ii] However, the two million data is 50 years old and does not include approximately 736,900 people who received cochlear implant devices worldwide since December 2019.[iii]

For the vast majority of Americans with hearing loss, induction loops play a crucial role in facilitating effective communication for individuals with hearing impairments. They enable those who wear hearing aids or cochlear implants to hear speakers by switching to the T or tele-coil setting (Learn more: [Telecoil Article](#)).

For individuals like my daughter, induction loops make a significant difference in allowing her to fully engage in society. Whether attending a baseball game, using public transportation, visiting the pharmacy, bank, or museum, these systems enhance their experiences. ([NY1 Broadcast](#))

Induction loops are increasingly prevalent on a global scale ([Induction Loops Globally](#)--Please scroll down.) particularly England, Scandinavia and Israel. Thanks to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD,) induction loops are expanding globally as can be seen by the preceding link.

It is imperative that individuals who are hard of hearing have the opportunity to actively participate in society, eliminating the need to rely on others to speak on their behalf, a practice that can be demeaning. Furthermore, maintaining auditory capabilities significantly contributes to overall health and well-being, particularly as individuals age.

Several states, including New Jersey ([NJ Bill](#)), and New York ([NY Bill](#)), have induction loop bills pending, showcasing the growing recognition of the importance of these systems in enhancing accessibility and inclusivity.

Thank you for your dedication to improving accessibility and inclusivity within the State of Massachusetts. I sincerely hope you will support the bill to integrate induction loops in public assembly areas and service counters, thus promoting a more inclusive and accessible environment for all individuals.

Respectfully,

Janice S. Lintz

2023 Presidential Management Fellow Finalist

2022 Congressional Recognition by Congressman Paul Tonko

2022 NYS Disability Rights Hall of Fame Inductee

2021 Cited in the Proposed FDA OTC Hearing Aid Regulations' footnotes

2018 Bill and Melinda Goalkeepers Foundations Partnership with TPG Recipient

2016 Aspen Institute Spotlight Health Scholar

2016 Nominated United State of Women Changemaker

2016 Acknowledged in the National Park Service Accessibility Guidelines (P76)

2008 People Magazine Hero

[i] "HLAA\_HearingLoss\_Facts\_Statistics.Pdf," accessed February 3, 2023, [https://www.hearingloss.org/wp-content/uploads/HLAA\\_HearingLoss\\_Facts\\_Statistics.pdf](https://www.hearingloss.org/wp-content/uploads/HLAA_HearingLoss_Facts_Statistics.pdf).

[ii] "ASL\_Users.Pdf," accessed April 8, 2023, [https://storage.googleapis.com/gal-media/documents/Research-Support-and-International-Affairs/ASL\\_Users.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/gal-media/documents/Research-Support-and-International-Affairs/ASL_Users.pdf).

[iii] "What Are Cochlear Implants for Hearing? | NIDCD," March 24, 2021, <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/cochlear-implants>.