

October 23, 2009

J. James Rohack, MD  
President, American Medical Association  
515 N. State Street  
Chicago, IL 60654

Dear Dr. Rohack,

I write to you as President of the Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA). Our academy is the oldest national organization comprised entirely of audiologists. Audiologists provide hearing and balance care to children and adults; and ADA is comprised of independent professionals dedicated to leadership in advancing practitioner excellence, high ethical standards, professional autonomy, hearing and balance care technology, and sound business practices in the provision of quality audiologic care.

Our academy has become aware of the AMA's *Scope of Practice Data Series* regarding the audiology profession. Despite many factual statements within this document there are unfortunately also inaccuracies and distortions. This document does not take into account the transition of the audiology profession to the doctoral level and the new standards that have been recently put into place to standardize academic curriculum and levels of professional training. Audiology is recognized by virtually all third party payers for direct access and reimbursement, and is a licensed profession in all 50 states. Therefore it is our assumption that this attempt to discredit our profession is directly related to attempts to restrict our scope of practice and our profession's potential Impact on the physician members represented by the American Medical Association.

We will join other audiology organizations in vigorously defending our scope of practice and the rigorous training and preparation required of today's candidates for the Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) degree. It has always been our intent to work cooperatively and collaboratively with the physician community in providing the highest quality patient care. However we fully intend to protect our profession and its right to practice under existing license laws, and for the benefit of our mutual patients.

Sincerely,



Charles R. Stone, Au.D.  
President