



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

PO Box 44000 • Olympia Washington 98504-4000

January 29, 2018

The Honorable Mike Sells
Washington State Representative

The Honorable Gina McCabe
Washington State Representative

The Honorable Mia Gregerson
Washington State Representative

The Honorable Matt Manweller
Washington State Representative

The Honorable Noel Frame
Washington State Representative

The Honorable Liz Pike
Washington State Representative

The Honorable Beth Doglio
Washington State Representative
House Labor & Workplace Standards Committee
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: **Hearing Aid Replacement**

Dear Chair Sells and Members of the Labor & Workplace Standards Committee,

Thank you for your letter regarding your concerns that injured workers with approved claims are unable to get replacement hearing aids promptly.

The department will initiate rulemaking to review and update our criteria on hearing aid replacements by February 15, 2018. We will also convene a workgroup, including representatives of the audiology, fitter/dispenser, manufacturer, business and labor communities, to help develop the rule.

If you need additional information or have additional questions, please contact, Tammy Fellin, L&I Legislative Director, (360)902-6805, tammy.fellin@lni.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Joel Sacks
Director

cc: Senator Karen Keiser
Representative Joan McBride
Cliff Webster, Governmental Affairs & Legislative Relations
Tammy Fellin, Legislative Director



State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



January 22nd, 2018

Joel Sacks, Director
Washington State Department of Labor & Industries
PO Box 44000
Olympia, WA 98504-4000

Re: Hearing Aid Replacement

Dear Director Sacks:

We are asking L&I to review and update its criteria on hearing aid replacements. As you know, we heard HB 2591 in committee last week. Testimony from injured workers concerned us greatly.

We are concerned that currently, injured workers with approved claims are unable to get the much-needed replacement hearing aids promptly. Existing rules identify L&I's responsibility to replace or repair hearing aids. However, we understand that the current criteria for replacements are nearly a decade old. With rapid changes in hearing technology and new research that documents the benefits to workers when hearing is restored, we believe it is time for L&I to review and update the criteria.

We are also requesting that you convene a workgroup of experts and interested parties to understand the issues and develop criteria that reflect current technology. This workgroup should include representatives of the audiology, fitter/dispenser, manufacturer, business and labor communities.

We are asking L&I to initiate rulemaking on the updated criteria by February 15, 2018. Please respond promptly so we can determine our next steps in this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mike Sells in black ink.

Mike Sells, State Representative
38th Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Gina McCabe in black ink.

Gina McCabe, State Representative
14th Legislative District

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mia Gregerson".

Mia Gregerson, State Representative
33rd Legislative District

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Matt Manweller".

Matt Manweller, State Representative
13th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Noel Frame".

Noel Frame, State Representative
36th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Liz Pike".

Liz Pike, State Representative
18th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beth Doglio".

Beth Doglio, State Representative
22nd Legislative District

Cc: State Senator Karen Keiser, State Representative Joan McBride, and Cliff Webster