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Nancy A. Dietrich
2621 Brookfield Court
Columbia, IL 62236-2620
November 25, 2000

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: RM 8658 regarding Hearing Aid Compatible Telephones

I have severe hearing loss and wear two hearing aids with telecoil. I recently purchased a digital wireless phone (Nokia) despite the fact that I was not able to use it with my hearing aids due to interference. I had to purchase a special neckloop that cost me $120.00. Why do I have to spend extra money when the manufacturers of wireless phones could make them compatible with hearing aids? Also, I cannot use the wireless phone without my hearing aids because the volume is not strong enough for me.

Actually, in an emergency, it would not be possible for me to **quickly** plug the neckloop into my wireless phone. It is a pain having to carry the extra attachment (neckloop) when I could use just the phone alone with my hearing aids on telecoil. I want to be able to use the wireless phone in all aspects of daily life just like the way people communicate these days.

Digital technology is advancing so rapidly and could replace wireline service in our homes in the future. If digital wireless phones are not made compatible with hearing aids with telecoil, what would hard of hearing people use if the wireline service is replaced?

Now is the time to eliminate the exemption of wireless phones from the Hearing Aid Compatibility Act of 1988. Digital wireless phones should be made accessible to and usable by people with hearing aids and also by people with cochlear implants.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy A. Dietrich

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