



TEXAS ACADEMY of AUDIOLOGY

Greetings, Texas Audiologists!

We are thinking of each and every one of you after last week's events. I am lovingly calling my week – "Little House on the Prairie." I wasn't a fan. I will try not to take our resources – water and power - for granted again. I know many of you feel the same. Praying most didn't have broken pipes to add insult to injury and hoping recovery is taking place.

On the professional front, in case you haven't heard, in Florida just last week, a group called Redesign Health (the parent company of Lively Hearing Corp: <https://www.listenlively.com/>) was successful in getting unanimous committee support for legislation they introduced eliminating the requirement for an audiological hearing evaluation before fitting hearing instruments on those 18 years of age or older.

[Click here to review HB 957](#)

(Florida HB 957, [Senate: S700 Amendment 302884](#))

If this legislation passes, patients will have the right to forego ALL audiology evaluations by providing a waiver before purchasing amplification. This addition was attached to significant Legislation on Telehealth scheduled to be heard soon. These bills open the door for direct-to-consumer sales in Florida.

What if the Florida Academy of Audiology hadn't been there to notice this add-on?

Would YOU as a professional be happy with this change?

There are things that we shouldn't take for granted – including our profession of Audiology in Texas.

How does the idea of imminent direct-to-consumer sales of hearing instruments sound to those of you who evaluate, fit, and dispense hearing instruments in Texas? Keep reading...

Florida is one of the three largest states for hearing aid sales, in addition to California and Texas. Yes, Texas! If this bill passes in Florida, it amends Florida's Audiology Practice ACT/Licensing Law.

I can only imagine this group will want to head over to Texas to push this legislation here soon after.

Would you be OK with this? Would this be best for your patients and you?

Our TAA lobbyist, Brad Shields, and the TAA Board of Directors are watching this very closely...

Part of TAA's mission is to watch out for the "Bogeymen" who might try to come and change our professional practices here in Texas. I would personally consider this a Bogeyman in OUR professional backyard. Without TAA resources, we would likely never know.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? [Join the Texas Academy of Audiology today \(or renew your Membership in TAA for 2021\) and support YOUR professional interests.](#)

As the TAA VP of Membership - my goal for this year is for half or more of the licensed audiologists in Texas to be members of our Texas Academy. This seems reasonable, right?

There are 1400 of us in Texas – so I am looking for a minimum of 700 caring, licensed Texas Audiologists who are willing to invest only \$95 (less than \$2 per week!) for our profession.

We need approximately 250 more of you to care enough to invest less than \$2 per week to reach our membership goal and continue our legislative and professional efforts for all of you in Texas.

Are you curious which of your colleagues are currently supporting the Texas Academy?

[Click here to search for and view Texas Academy members.](#) Enter any Texas zip code for a quick way to find TAA members.

Note: the grace period to renew before late fees are applied ends March 5th, so if you haven't yet renewed for 2021 and you show up on this member list, you will roll off the list on March 6th.

If you see information on Find an Audiologist that is different from what you would like available for public viewing, please log in and update your member profile.

Steps to update your Find an Audiologist profile:

- 1) Login: <https://texasaudiology.org/members.php>
- 2) Click on "My Account Info" to the left under the Members section.
- 3) Add, delete, update any information under each profile section.
- 4) You can also add, delete or update your profile photo.
- 5) HIDE any information from the directory that you choose by checking "Hide Above Field From" and then "Directory" and/or "Other Listings." Go through each section and remember to click "Save" under each section that you update.
- 6) Done!

Some of you have told me that you won't join TAA since your employer doesn't pay. The mere truth of it, y'all - if your employer is someone other than an Audiologist – why would they care about us? We should care about ourselves enough to support OUR state organization – it is that important!

Please note - ALL January, February, and those new members and renewals through March 5th, 2021, will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card to be drawn on Monday, March 8th.

Membership in TAA as a Fellow member is \$95 (less than \$2 per week and less than \$8 per month – that's 2 Grande cups of Starbucks coffee). **TAA is the Audiology Association representing ALL Audiologists in the Great State of Texas.**

These professional dues cover the work we all do to support you, specifically by paying for our two part-time employees – our Lobbyist and our Accountant/Administrator.

Worthy of note, our dedicated Board members each pay their own TAA dues, TAA-related expenses, and TAA conference fees – just like you.

Help us to take a stand...FOR Texas Audiology – that means a stand for YOU. There is power in numbers...invest \$95 before late fees of \$15 are added on March 6th. Please help us help all of us! There are membership rates for all levels of caring professionals – Fellows, Students, Patrons, Retired Audiologists, Audiologist Assistants/Associate Members, and Lifetime Members.

Plan on joining us for the 2021 Annual Conference in Houston Oct 28 – 30th! Your 2021 TAA membership gives you significantly discounted rates to attend. Our speakers and topics will delight you. We hope to see you there - mark your calendar and join us. It would be so nice to see our colleagues and peers face to face again!

Helping to keep the light on for you professionally...TAA is HEAR!

Kim

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Questions – please ask!