

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING HEALTH CAUCUS

ACTION

Urge your representative to join the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus (CHHC).

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW?

The CHHC aims to provide an educational setting for discussion of issues related to hearing health care. Representatives David McKinley (R-WV) and Mike Thompson (D-CA) are chairing the caucus.

WHAT YOU NEED TO SAY?

- According to the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, approximately 15% of Americans (37.5 million) aged 18 and over report some trouble hearing; however, it is often overlooked when health care issues are considered in Congress.
- In the United States, hearing loss is among the most prevalent health problems at birth—affecting 2-3 in 1,000 births.
- An increasing number of younger people are experiencing hearing loss caused by exposure to loud noise.
- Hearing loss and tinnitus (ringing in the ears) are the number one injury that soldiers experienced in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- According to a poll commissioned by ASHA and conducted by Zogby International, more than half of high school students surveyed reported at least one symptom of hearing loss.
 - The poll looked at the usage habits of high school students and adults with respect to some popular technology that provides audio through earphones (e.g., MP3 players).
 - Sharing the survey results has increased the public's awareness of the potential for hearing loss from such devices.

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