



January 28, 2015

The Honorable Sean Duffy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Duffy:

The Business Coalition for Fair Competition (BCFC) is pleased to support [H.R. 353](#), legislation permitting private sector hearing aid specialists to provide hearing aid services to veterans as Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) providers.

BCFC ([www.governmentcompetition.org](http://www.governmentcompetition.org)) is a national coalition of businesses, associations, taxpayer organizations and think tanks that are committed to reducing all forms of unfair government created, sponsored and provided competition with the private sector. H.R. 353 would amend Section 7401(3) of 38 United States Code (U.S.C.), and in doing so would encourage more VA contracting opportunities for hearing aid specialists.

Hearing healthcare services could be quickly and effectively offered to veterans from an established set of VA contractors, as many are located in both rural and urban settings, cover most of the United States, and the vast majority can perform home visits.

BCFC believes the free enterprise system is the most productive and efficient provider of goods and services and strongly supports the federal government utilizing the private sector for commercially available products and services to the maximum extent possible. H.R. 353 allows the private sector, including small business, to be included in the VA contracting process as likely recipients providing a clear direction to pursue valuable business opportunities, thereby helping to support BCFC's goal. H.R. 353 would also broaden a vital link for veterans to receive these important services and goods which may lead to reducing the VA from offering similar commercially available goods and services in direct competition with and duplication of private sector capacity in the hearing aid service sector.

We respectfully and enthusiastically support H.R. 353.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Palatiello". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John M. Palatiello, President

cc:

Representative Tim Walz; Representative Raul Ruiz;  
Additional cosponsors of H.R. 353, the "Veterans' Access to Hearing Health Act of 2015"

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