

## Illinois Hearing Society February 2011 News Update

# LISTEN UP!

### New Legislation Aims to Cut Out Dispensers - Again!

Just like "groundhog day" we are once again facing the same legislation that will redefine "hearing care professional." **SB71**, introduced by Senator Ira Silverstein, requires insurance companies to provide coverage for hearing aids **when prescribed by a hearing care professional, defined as an audiologist or physician!**

It is critical that IHS and its members act quickly to get this legislation amended. Hearing care professional is already defined in State statute as a licensed audiologist, licensed hearing instrument dispenser and licensed physician. **Changing this definition excluding dispensers will have a major negative impact on your ability to practice.**

# CALL TO ACTION

**Every licensed dispenser in Illinois must call their State Senator now**, and ask them to vote **NO** on this legislation, unless amended to include the current definition for hearing care profession as provided in statute.

To get the contact information for your State Senator log on to the following:  
<http://www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/DistrictOfficialSearchByAddress.aspx>

**Secondly**, IHS sent out a membership survey last month which includes questions that will assist us in pleading our position for how valuable the hearing instrument dispenser is to providing professional hearing care to the citizens of Illinois. If you have not taken this survey, please [CLICK HERE](#) and take the survey. This information is vital!

**If you future plans include dispensing hearing instruments, then do not delay. Make the call to your Senator! Pay your dues! Take the survey! And get other dispensers to join IHS today!**

### Proposed Rules



The rules have been filed with the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules regarding the new Trainee License, Reciprocity and the revision of the State Licensure Exams. There is now a 45 day comment period, after which JCAR will act on the rules. If accepted, IDPH will then apply the rules for implementing the new law. To read the rules [CLICK](#)

### 2011 IHS Dues



The IHS 2011 dues statements have been sent to members. Renewals are coming in strong but don't take IHS's service to the profession for granted. We need the support of all licensed hearing instrument dispensers. If you have not sent in your dues, please do so soon!

If you know of fellow professionals who are not members of IHS, encourage them to become a member. IHS is your **"insurance policy"** for

### Annual Convention Speaker Highlight

*Otologic Evaluation and Management of Hearing Loss*

#### Dr. Herzog, Presenter

This presentation will consist of when to refer a patient for medical evaluation, including chronic ear disease, conductive hearing loss, asymmetric hearing loss and poor word discrimination ability.

The presentation will conclude with a segment on cochlear implants. A cochlear implant recipient will share her experience

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keeping your ability to practice.

with hearing loss, hearing aids and her cochlear implant. Current cochlear implant criteria and outcomes will also be addressed

### **Make Your Convention Hotel Reservations Now**

To make your hotel reservations for IHS's 2011 Annual Convention call the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield (217) 544-8800. Our convention rate is only \$88.00 plus tax!

### **Implanted Hearing Aid**

A woman has received the UK's first totally implanted hearing aid. The Otologics "Carina" middle ear implant device consists of a rechargeable battery, a signal processor and a microphone which are all implanted under the skin.

These are connected to a tiny electromagnetic vibrator which is positioned inside the mastoid bone behind the ear and attaches to the hearing bones. There is nothing on the outside of the head and the ear canal is left open. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

# Illinois Hearing Society

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