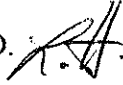


**AGENCY MEMORANDUM OF RESPONSE**

TO: Mark Hamlin
Director of Regulatory Policy
Ohio Lieutenant Governor's Office

FROM: Lance D. Himes, J.D. 
Interim Director
Ohio Department of Health

RE: Proposed new O.A.C. Chapter 3701-45 pertaining to the Ohio Hearing Aid Assistance Program

DATE: February 25, 2014

Thank you for CSI's participation in discussions regarding proposed new rules 3701-45-01 to -04. ODH has accepted CSI's recommendation, and will include hearing aid fitters and dealers as providers to eligible children ages eighteen to twenty-one. As originally drafted, the rules allowed only audiologists to fit qualifying children (up to the age of twenty-one) with hearing aids. As the CSI report indicates, to maintain the integrity of the program, ODH added a "requirement for audiologists and hearing aid fitters and dealers to present a written statement signed by a licensed physician that states that the individual's hearing loss has been medically evaluated and the individual may be considered a candidate for a hearing aid."