

March 18, 2024



The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Burgess:

On behalf of the Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA), I write today to express our members' strong support for H.R. 766, the ***Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act***. As an organization dedicated to representing and advocating for audiologists and their patients, across the nation, we believe that this bill is a crucial step toward ensuring fair and accurate scoring of legislation that impacts healthcare access and affordability, particularly for Medicare beneficiaries.

The benefits of preventive health care savings often extend far beyond the 10-year budget window currently utilized by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). Research has consistently shown that preventive health care interventions yield significant cost savings over the long term, but these savings may not be fully captured within the confines of a 10-year analysis.

By extending the budgetary analysis period from the current 10 years to a more comprehensive 30-year timeline, the CBO would be better equipped to assess the long-term impacts of preventive health care legislation. This is especially important for initiatives like the *Medicare Audiology Access Improvement Act* (H.R. 6445), which aims to enhance access to essential audiological services for Medicare beneficiaries. A 30-year projection would provide a more accurate representation of the substantial long-term savings and benefits offered by H.R. 6445 and similar legislation.

We commend the efforts of Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX), Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO), and the House Budget Committee in advancing this legislation, which underscores the importance of bipartisan collaboration in addressing critical healthcare challenges. By requiring requests for extended budgetary analysis to be made on a bipartisan basis, H.R. 766 safeguards against the manipulation of budget estimates and ensures transparency in the legislative process.

As audiologists, we witness firsthand the profound impact that access to preventive healthcare services can have on the overall well-being of individuals, particularly as it relates to hearing health. Timely interventions and screenings not only improve health outcomes but also contribute to long-term cost savings within the healthcare system. Therefore, we urge Congress to prioritize the passage of H.R. 766 to facilitate a more comprehensive and equitable evaluation of preventive health care legislation.

Thank you for your support for this important legislation and for your continued dedication to improving healthcare accessibility and affordability for all Americans. Please contact me at 859-977-7444 or at sczuhajewski@audiologist.org if you have any questions, or if I can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Czuhajewski
Executive Director