



Florida Policy Exchange

*Policy Brief*

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# Reducing Medicare Expenses with Hearing Coverage

## **SUMMARY**

Currently, hearing care services are not covered by Medicare, so for older adults, the high out-of-pocket expenses drive people to avoid using them. Despite the consistent research observing that good hearing health reduces healthcare expenses by removing the undue excessive burden of hearing impairment on

**Progress has been made in curbing this cost by addressing the most expensive hearing care aspect.** A hearing aid can only be purchased through a licensed audiologist and is only paid for out-of-pocket.<sup>6</sup> However, the 115th United States Congress passed the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017 (OTC Hearing Aid Act), introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Representative Joe Kennedy III (D MA) and in the U.S. Senate by Senator Elizabeth Warren (D MA).

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