



February 2, 2023

The Honorable Alexander Hoehn-Saric  
Chair  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
4330 East-West Highway  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Chair Hoehn-Saric:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to thank you for your work on the implementation of Reese's Law. This important piece of child safety legislation ensures that all hearing aid batteries must comply with updated packaging requirements. Hearing loss is a serious and complex medical condition that affects roughly 48 million Americans.<sup>1</sup> It can significantly impact a person's overall health, physical safety, and quality of life.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 223,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. ASHA is the national association representing the most audiologists across the country with our current membership totaling more than 13,000 audiologists. ASHA's vision is to make *effective communication, a human right, accessible and achievable for all*.

As the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) begins to implement and enforce Reese's Law, we encourage you to work with manufacturers and retailers to ensure that individuals who need button and coin cell batteries to operate their hearing devices (i.e., hearing aids, bone conduction devices, cochlear implants) maintain robust access to such batteries. ASHA recommends that CPSC issue guidance ensuring there are no barriers to adults and children accessing hearing aid batteries. Without access to batteries children and adults are not able to use hearing devices, which may negatively impact communication, education, and employment. Please ensure that Americans continue to have access to batteries until the supply chain can adequately meet the requirements of Reese's Law.

Thank you again for your consideration of this recommendation and the opportunity to lend our members' expertise to help further inform the CPSC process. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Bill Knudsen, ASHA's director of education policy, at [bknudsen@asha.org](mailto:bknudsen@asha.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Augustine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert M. Augustine, PhD, CCC-SLP  
2023 ASHA President

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<sup>1</sup> American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2021). New Poll of U.S. Adults Reveals Widespread Inaction on Hearing Loss. <https://www.asha.org/news/2021/new-poll-of-us-adults-reveals-widespread-inaction-on-hearing-loss/>.