



Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President, CEO

January 19, 2010

Sue T. Hale, MCD
President
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
2200 Research Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20850-3289

Dear Ms. Hale:

On behalf of the physician and resident members of the American Medical Association (AMA), we would like to thank you for your December 18, 2009 letter regarding the AMA Scope of Practice Data Series module on Audiologists. Although our associations may disagree on certain health policy matters, we deeply respect the audiologists' patient care contributions in the United States.

I appreciate the concerns you have regarding the Data Series module, and I would like to further explore the opportunity to work with you and your colleagues to find solutions to the challenges patients face in our nation's health care system. I encourage you to share that invitation with the other organizations that signed your December 18, 2009 letter.

However, we disagree with your assertion that the Data Series module is "rife" with errors. Your letter makes numerous claims about factual errors, yet you decline to provide suggestions for correcting those alleged errors. If you do have suggestions, the AMA will gladly review them to determine whether revision of the module is appropriate.

I am hopeful that we can find common ground to work together for the betterment of our nation's health care system. Please contact Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD, Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center at (312) 464-4126 or daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael D. Maves". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA