

A PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

TAX FAIRNESS FOR THE HARD OF HEARING

We, the undersigned citizens of Canada, draw the attention of the House of Commons to the following:

WHEREAS many Canadians live with hearing disability but are not eligible to receive the Disability Tax Credit to which they are entitled;

WHEREAS the current test for eligibility for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) is performed under conditions that do not mirror real life situations;

WHEREAS the current test for DTC eligibility requires that, when the degree of hearing loss is tested, a person with hearing loss be unable to understand a familiar person, in a quiet setting, while wearing an assisted listening device;

WHEREAS in real life situations a person living with hearing disability would be interacting with unfamiliar people on a daily basis, with varying intensities and distracting levels of ambient noise;

WHEREAS the Disability Tax Credit should also serve as a means of helping a person coping from hearing disability to purchase an assisted listening device, instead of assuming it has already been purchased;

THEREFORE, your petitioners call on the Government of Canada to: (a) recognize that the current legislation neglects the true parameters of hearing loss and real life situations and discriminates against individuals with hearing disability; and (b) support the changes proposed by Bill C-246, *An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (hearing impairment)* which would bring clarity and fairness to the Income Tax Act by removing regulatory barriers that unjustly exclude some of or part of the hard of hearing community from accessing the Disability Tax Credit.

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Peter Julian, MP
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