

**Early Hearing Detection and Intervention  
Hearing Screening and Follow-up Survey**

**Reinstatement with Change**

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**Attachment 6:**

**DSHPHWA Letter of Support**

*Directors of Speech and Hearing Programs in  
State Health and Welfare Agencies, Inc.*

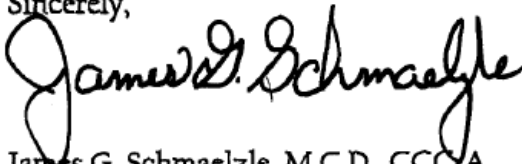
January 27, 2006

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Directors of Speech and Hearing Programs in State Health and Welfare Agencies (DSHPSHWA), we offer this letter in support of efforts by the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop a new survey to gather aggregate hearing screening and follow-up data from state and territorial EHDI programs. While DSHPSHWA has previously conducted surveys of EHDI programs, it has become clear that more specific data is needed to assess progress towards national goals. As a result, we are no longer planning to distribute our DSHPSHWA survey. Given our productive working relationship with the CDC-EHDI program, which has included analysis at our request of collected data, we fully support the development of this new survey by the CDC-EHDI program. In addition, we have been pleased to provide input into the development of this new survey.

If you have questions or would like additional information about our support for this new survey, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at the Oklahoma State Department of Health in Oklahoma City at 405-271-6617.

Sincerely,



James G. Schmaelzle, M.C.D., CCCA  
President, DSHPSHWA