



June 10, 2008

**COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES
Department of Communication Sciences
and Disorders**

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To the President, Chancellor and Board of Trustees, University of Tennessee, Knoxville,

We would like to add our view to what is probably many letters supporting the program in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology at University of Tennessee Knoxville. We realize that there are sometimes very difficult financial decisions that must be made, but we feel there are several important considerations about this program that should be taken into account.

First, this is an excellent program with a national reputation for training excellent students in both clinic and research. This faculty, the student body, and the clinical enterprise are clearly among the better programs in the country. The research that comes out of that program is certainly a significant part of advances in our field.

Second, there is historically a need for speech pathologists and audiologists nationwide. Students with excellent training are in high demand and serve an important function in society. Graduates of the Tennessee program are likely staying in the state to serve the needs of the state. Suspension of the program will likely lead to further shortages in clinicians.

Finally, while the clinic is a training clinic for students in the program it also serves an important function in providing services to the community. Training clinics like that at Tennessee are particularly effective in providing care using the latest techniques and research results. The suspension of those services will likely lead to void in therapy to both adults and children in the area.

We hope that you give every consideration to this obviously very important decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Abbas".

Paul J. Abbas, PhD
Professor and Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda J. Louko".

Linda J. Louko, PhD
Clinical Associate Professor
Director of Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic