

Dear House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care Members:

I am writing to request that you support House Bill 2994, which requires insurance companies to cover children's hearing aids and audiology. As a parent of deaf child (now adult), I remember just how stressful it was when it came time for new earmolds or hearing aids. I knew it was vital that she hear in order to develop age-appropriate speech and language and reach her true potential academically, but I was also living on a budget.

Now, as a teacher of the deaf working with families of young children who are deaf and hard of hearing, I see that same stress still affecting parents. We can solve this problem for families and help ensure deaf and hard of hearing children in Oregon have the best chance at reaching their potential by passing House Bill 2994.

Insurance coverage for hearing aids and audiological services can make a big difference in the lives of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, but it can also save Oregonians money down the road. If children who are deaf and hard of hearing are properly amplified at an early age, they will very likely need fewer services in school. It's the right thing to do. Please support House Bill 2994.

Thank you.

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