

Submitter: Robert Cantwell

On Behalf Of: Children with hearing loss

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2994

Dear HB 2994 Committee,

As Director of Portland Public Schools Head Start, I oversee a family wraparound program for 648 children and families who need and benefit from developmental, social, mental health, nutrition, and health services so that young children with learning differences can succeed along with their neurotypically developing peers. Access to appropriate health care, including pediatric audiology care and equipment, should not be a question in the state of Oregon and in the year 2023. To limit and/or place the burden of acquiring necessary services and equipment on families is inappropriate, inequitable, and counter to the principles upon which the Oregon constitution was established (section 20, Equality of privileges and immunities of citizens).

Please move House Bill 2994 forward so that all of Oregon's young children, who are our future citizens, can grow and develop without barriers to their learning.

Thank you.

Dr. Robert D. Cantwell