

Submitter: Sara Rhoades

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2994

I am a speech language pathologist in Salem, Oregon. I cannot state enough how important it is for patients with hearing loss to have insurance coverage to support the acquisition of hearing aids, cochlear implants, or other medical needs related to hearing loss. I have worked with both children and adults who experience varying degrees of hearing loss. For many, this is an important necessity for individuals who wish to be part of the hearing community. Access to adequate hearing support causes a direct impact on an individual's ability to learn their family's native language, engage in socialization with peers and their communities, impacts safety, and can have a direct impact on education and work accessibility. When not given the proper opportunities and support to receive adequate healthcare related to hearing loss, there can be severe life-changing consequences. Coverage of hearing devices, regardless of degree of hearing loss, should be covered and accessible due to the fact that they directly impact the safety, autonomy, and quality of life of an individual and their families.