

Submitter: Angela Drury

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2994

I am in full support of HB2994

As a parent of a young child with hearing loss, you are thrown into a whole new world to navigate. You are told from all sources that early access to sound is crucial to your child's development. Yet, getting a child adequate hearing technology and services is frustratingly out of our control as parents. A big factor in this is dealing with insurance. With young children especially, time is of the essence with regards to getting them proper hearing equipment. Young children are in a critical time window of brain development when getting access to sound can greatly impact their language development. Every week they have to wait is exponentially longer to them and especially their parents, who shouldn't have to suffer through such delays due to worries about deductibles and out of pocket expenses.

Having adequate, properly fitting and properly programmed, hearing equipment is a necessity in the daily lives of those who use them. It would be like having a sailboat that doesn't have proper sails or a rowboat without oars, you won't get anywhere. Hearing aids need properly fitting molds and cochlear implants require frequent programming. These needs arise for young children as frequently as the need for new shoes when a child has a growth spurt.

Please help support this bill to fix the loopholes insurance providers have found, so families can rest assured they receive the services and equipment needed to keep hearing.