

Submitter: Katie Osborne

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

Passing this Omnibus means ensuring funding for children with hearing loss. Families of children with hearing loss need all the access they can get to the equipment and services that are essential for their child to hear. Without adequate access to sound, a child with hearing loss will miss out on vital educational, social, and emotional development opportunities that will impact not only their school success, but their potential to succeed as an active member of society for their entire life. Currently, families must balance a number of financial factors and fight endless battles with insurance companies in order to get what they need. This is an unacceptable barrier for kids who are already at a disadvantage compared to their normal hearing peers. Every day without appropriate equipment is time and opportunity lost for these kids. And every day spent calling insurance companies, submitting endless appeals, and paying out of pocket for what is supposed to be covered, is lost time and income for their families. Closing these loopholes will ensure children with hearing loss will be able to obtain the equipment and continued care they need to grow and thrive the way every child should.