

Submitter: Paul Gilbert
On Behalf Of: SB 5506
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Hello!

My name is Paul Gilbert and I have severe/profound hearing loss.

I am also a professional musician, and some of my hearing loss has certainly been helped along by playing loud rock and roll around the world for the last 3 decades.

But my 8 year old son also has hearing loss. He can't blame loud amplifiers (I keep things quiet around him.) It turns out that genetic hearing loss runs in our family.

Both my son and I wear hearing aids. These expensive, but useful devices make it possible for my son to learn two languages (English and Japanese), and for me to continue my career at a high professional level.

It is still challenging for us, but the hearing aids make a huge, positive difference. We can connect and contribute.

I hope that you can take action to support bill SB 5506 (in order to fund HB 2994 which is embedded in the bill.)

This will help people with hearing loss in a direct and meaningful way.

Thank you for your time reading this.

Thank you!

Paul