

Submitter: Kendra Hawkins
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez and Members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means,

I am writing today to share my strong support of HB 2994A, a bill that will ensure deaf and hard-of-hearing kids across the state get the critical services they need to thrive.

My child is one of the hard-of-hearing eventually deaf children that HB 4104 is currently helping but it's not enough. She needs to receive all the medical supplies and care that our pediatric audiologist recommends not just the ones the insurance will cover. We are lucky enough to be able to bridge the gap but many families are not. We moved from Montana where there was NO coverage at all for hearing aids and I cried when we moved to Oregon and saw what good health insurance was like. But it's not enough anymore, insurance companies are not the experts in our kids deafness, our audiologists are. If the audiologist recommends ear molds 4 times a year, then that should be covered by the insurance companies.

Please support HB 2994A so families aren't forced to make the decision between just good enough and great. Hearing is such a vital component of learning and all children deserve the best.

Thank you!
Kendra Hawkins
Tigard, OR
97223