

To: House Health Committee

Date: 3/7/17

Re: HB 2392

Chair Greenlick and Members of the committee,

I am a Neurodevelopmental Pediatrician at Providence St. Vincent Child Development Institute. I am writing to express my unconditional support for HB 2392. It is impossible to overstate the importance of hearing in child development. Without adequate hearing, speech and language abilities do not proceed at the expected rate which results in a cascade of developmental delays. Adequate insurance coverage for all services and equipment needed to support a child's ability to hear to the fullest extent possible should be guaranteed under all medical insurance policies. It is unconscionable to allow an insurance company to limit or refuse to cover crucial audiologic services or equipment. Insurance companies that impose restrictions for the sole purpose of cost-containment should not be allowed to provide medical coverage to unsuspecting families who often cannot afford the services and equipment that their hearing impaired child desperately needs. For example, there is no medical evidence to support the all too common practice of limiting benefits to a single hearing aide in bilateral hearing loss. Insurance denials can harm a child irreparably. We cannot allow the denial of resources that are desperately needed to fully support the child's neurodevelopment. Coverage of necessary audiology services, batteries, and other necessary maintenance expenses must be included in insurance policies to provide seamless access to these crucial services. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in the field of Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics when I sincerely ask for your support of this bill.

Best Regards,

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