

April 14, 2017

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
House Committee on Health Care  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Greenlick, and the Members of the House Committee on Health Care,

As a member of the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing community, I ask you to support HB 2392. The State of Oregon lacks critical access to hearing loss treatment services (e.g., hearing aids) for children and persons who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, or Hard of Hearing.

Hearing aids can be very expensive. They deserve for the rightly access to using hearing aids affordably, and for free. It should have no burden on parents to compensate expensive hearing aids or the necessary treatments simply because their children become hearing loss. Insurance companies should help to cover the necessary hearing loss treatments.

In short, hearing loss need no longer be a significant barrier to communication. Before video relay services, real-time captioning, and video remote interpreting, and other innovations, losing your hearing excluded you from normal participation in educational, public and social affairs. The emotional and psychological impacts of that exclusion can be profound for persons of every age, and can be costly.

I believe HB 2392 will provide hearing aids and the necessary treatments to fill the gaps.

I ask you and your committee to bring HB 2392 with a **DO PASS** recommendation. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SMB', is written over a thin horizontal line.

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