

helen leiser cottonhelen2@gmail.com
HB 4104

I am a mother of two girls ages 9 and 13 who both use cochlear implants to hear with. As you likely know, there is an expense to families and school districts in providing all the technology needed for deaf and hard of hearing children to receive full access in school and at home.

As you also likely know, there is a huge cost to our communities, our counties, and our state if full access to our children is not made available. The cost is in our children not receiving full access to education, to social opportunities outside the classroom, and full language opportunities. It is more costly to not provide the needed access up-front.

Even with insurance and two working parents, it has been costly getting the assistive technology our daughters need because insurance premiums have gone up while coverage has gone down. One battery replacement alone is \$270.

We are also lacking in pediatric audiologists in our state, and audiologists who can work with cochlear implants. Our insurance does not cover our audiologist, nor do they offer an audiologist who can see our girls annually, which is needed, just like any other annual health exam. That leaves me with a \$800 bill each year. Not an easy bill to cover.

Please support this bill. Support our children and families so our children can in turn, support our state in the future.

Thank you,

Helen Leiser