

Dear Representative,

I am writing to you in support of HB 4104, access to sound for children who are deaf/hard of hearing. Current insurance requirements leave children without adequate services and devices to help them succeed in school and life. HB 4104 will provide children with timely access to pediatric audiologists and assistive listening devices to aid with hearing.

My son was born with hearing loss and has been wearing hearing aids since he was 2 months old. Thanks to early intervention, all of the amazing audiology services we have had he is now 5 years old and tests in "average" when compared to his typical hearing peers in all categories except two, where he tests above average. Last year, his hearing loss progressed and he needed to switch from hearing aids to cochlear implants. Our insurance covered a great portion of this imperative and very expensive operation (twice -one surgery per ear) however, not all insurance is the same. I can't even imagine going through this life of raising my son without all of the assistance we have received for the health of my son's ears.

The benefits we have received have impacted our lives greatly. Please help others to continue to get all the help and assistance they can receive for children with hearing loss. Not only does it better their lives but it is also much safer for them to have adequate hearing.

As a member of the House Health Care Committee, will you push to have this bill scheduled for a hearing and work session? Thank you

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**Best Regards,**

**Mychal Pinkard**