

Dear Senate Healthcare Committee,

I am urging you to support HB 4104 that is being presented at your hearing and work session. As a parent of a 5 year old child with hearing loss who uses hearing aids, I have found very little support available to me from my insurance company or the community. My insurance company will not cover the hearing aids that my daughter needs to successfully navigate life. Loss of hearing can impact her academically, socially and potentially emotionally. It has impeded her language acquisition, which is the basis for literacy.

In the fall of last year, we enrolled my daughter at Tucker Maxon School in Portland in an effort to provide her with the supports she would not otherwise receive. The attention and care she has received by their onsite audiologist has been a necessary component to the gains she has made already in this school year.

As parents, we endeavor to provide our daughter with the best care we can afford. Currently, there are wide gaps in how children with hearing loss are supported in our state, forcing parents like us to be stretched financially and to be our own case managers.

I urge you to support children and their families in Oregon affected by hearing loss by supporting HB 4104.

Sincerely,  
Tracy Mandel