

Submitter: suzie heringer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2994

As a mother of two profoundly deaf children who are now young adults, I wholeheartedly support HB 2994. When our oldest daughter was identified with a hearing loss, we quickly learned that time was of the essence and early intervention would be the key to her success. We were fortunate that our insurance at the time covered her hearing aids, and then the cochlear implant, as well as the repeated visits to the audiologist. As a young family, we were stretching every dollar, and we were so fortunate that access to what our girls needed was never delayed due to our insurance coverage. The investment of parents, early intervention services and access to the most appropriate hearing amplification is critical for deaf children to grow up and become full participants in this world. It's because from the very beginning, all of these crucial pieces were in place that our girls are able to work in the profession of their choosing, have social opportunities without limits and have the confidence to chart their own paths. Rachel graduated from Willamette University and is working as an Account Manager with an insurance company and much of her work is done over the phone with a variety of clients, and she is able to hear and communicate effectively. Abigail graduated from Linfield University and started as a financial analyst then found herself on reality tv which then in turn provided her opportunities as an influencer where not only is she able to communicate and advocate for herself, she uses her platform for promoting awareness for issues related to hearing loss. Every child with a hearing loss deserves access to the most appropriate hearing loss related services. They and their families will encounter many bumps and obstacles along the way; this should not be one of them.