

Submitter: Sara Funatake

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2994

My name is Sara Funatake, and I am a hearing aid and cochlear implant audiologist working at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU). I am writing in support of HB2994. I see many pediatric patients and work with all Oregon insurance companies. Many of my patients need ongoing hearing aid care and require multiple visits, they outgrow ear molds rapidly, and need frequent reprogramming completed to match their fluctuating hearing. Additionally, my primary work is with cochlear implants and the majority of my pediatric cochlear implant recipients are bilaterally implanted. with insurance only covering for 1 cochlear implant programming session and not two creates issues with billing (many families cannot afford the cost of a mapping appointment) and it also creates stress if families have to travel great distances for multiple appointments that can easily be handled in a day. Many families cannot afford to miss multiple days of work. Families need better access and more consistent access to audiologic care for their children and the hospitals and clinics that work with these families need fair and appropriate reimbursement in order to keep doors open to continue to serve them.