

Submitter: Bernadette Rakszawski

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2994

I am in complete support of HB 2994 as I know from years of practice in medical settings that children require access to sound to succeed in listening and spoken language environments such as developing spoken language skills and accessing academic material. In order for children with hearing loss to obtain optimal access to sound, they require specifically selected devices depending on their personal needs and access to the accessories (assistive listening and device dependent (earmolds, softbands, etc.) so that their personal devices can work in all listening situations. In order to obtain optimally programmed devices, it is necessary that children be seen by an audiologist routinely. Therefore, it is crucial that audiology services also be a covered benefit.

In addition to acquiring hearing devices, the items listed in BH 2994 are necessary to provide optimal care to children so that they can succeed in communication, academics, and social capacities. Without these benefits, children with hearing loss will continue to struggle.