

Submitter: Patricia Pieper

On Behalf Of: Hard of hearing or deaf children

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2994

I am a pediatric audiologist who fits hearing aids on babies and children who are deaf or hard of hearing. I have seen children go without hearing aids or new earmolds because their insurance company refuses to pay for them, even if the aids are broken or the earmolds no longer fit. A delay of 2 to 4 weeks may not seem long to an adult, but for a baby learning to listen and interpret their world through hearing aids or a cochlear implant, 4 weeks is an incredible amount of time lost for learning and development. Children's access to communication and sound should not be dictated (and hindered) by insurance companies seeking to save a buck. Thank you for your consideration of passing this bill, which closes detrimental loopholes.