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On Behalf Of:

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When a child is born, their parents have hopes that their child will live a life as free of challenge and heartache as possible. For some parents, they learn shortly after birth that their child has a hearing difference. Suddenly the hopes and expectations dissolve, and the family has to learn to deal with a new reality. For families of children with hearing loss, this may mean many appointments and equipment in the first year of life. It may even mean learning a new language to communicate with their child. Navigating the cost of these appointments and devices is a significant barrier for many families. Most children with hearing loss are born to hearing families who may have never met someone with hearing loss before. Hearing loss creates barriers to access communication, education, and environmental cues. Dealing with insurance to cover the devices and services that set these children up for success is a major source of stress in the lives of these families. I have worked as a pediatric audiologist in three states, with families of every economic background. I have seen families struggle to choose whether they will buy their child hearing aids, or take care of other pressing medical needs. This is a choice no parent should have to make. Access to hearing technology needs to be treated as a universal human right. By supporting families and giving their children every chance to succeed, we elevate society as a whole.