

Submitter: Heather Kirby

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2994

Dear House, Behavioral Health and Healthcare Committee,

I enthusiastically endorse House Bill 2994. My 16-year-old son is deaf, but owing to bilateral cochlear implants, he hears normal levels of hearing with his cochlear implants. He doesn't even sound deaf when he talks. My kid is thriving in his regular high school classroom because he has access to the appropriate hearing devices. The success of Gavin may be traced to four elements. Audiologist who can program hearing aids or mapp cochlear implants at normal hearing levels, matching hearing equipment to the appropriate degree of hearing loss, Gavin wearing his hearing equipment all waking hours, and participation in a listening and spoken language school.

This legislation is vital and must be enacted, in my view. Deaf children having access to hearing aids or cochlear implants that correspond to their degree of hearing loss have the highest chance of acquiring listening and spoken language. My teenage son does not know ASL and does not have a deaf interpreter. Please do not misinterpret me; there is nothing wrong with American Sign Language or deaf interpreters for families who desire to pursue ASL, but for my kid, we picked Listening and Spoken Language (LSL), thus hearing aids and cochlear implants are a requirement for families who chose LSL.

Thank you for approving HB4104. It has been beneficial to Gavin.

Please approve House Bill 2994!

Thank you,
Heather Kirby