

Submitter: Erin Olsen

On Behalf Of: Shelby Atwill House

Committee: Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2994

As a mother to two children that are hard of hearing, I can still remember the day that my children received their first pair of hearing aids. Lucy was 3 years old and in day care, and I recall distinctly the note from her preschool teacher. She described how much more engaged Lucy had become in circle time, how more responsive she was with other children in her class and her language started developing much faster as the days and months progressed. This was my personal experience and I wish that all parents that have children with hearing loss have the ability to watch this same transformation in their children.

I believe that allowing children the ability to hear is a fundamental right that should not be constrained by the economic or financial status of a family. The ability to hear sounds at a young age has a massive developmental impact for the individual and a wider community impact. Corporate policies and loopholes that create more hurdles, excessive expenses and disadvantages for children with hearing loss is not acceptable. I support HB2994.