

April 28, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a teacher of the deaf and the Principal of Tucker Maxon School in Portland. I have worked with many families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing over the past 23 years. Most of these families have chosen for their child to learn to listen and talk. In order for a child to learn to listen and talk well, they need the best audiological equipment. The cost around hearing equipment can be cost prohibitive for some families. Having insurance coverage that covers equipment and batteries, and essential fittings and programming is imperative to making sure that these children are always able to have equipment that is working at its optimal level.

I urge you to please vote for Bill HB2994. This bill would make sure that insurance covers hearing aid fittings, the programming, and re-programming of cochlear implants and hearings aids. All children have the right to learn to listen and talk if their family has chosen that mode of communication. Money should not be a barrier to proper amplification. Please do the right thing for my students and for all of the other children in Oregon who have hearing loss and wear hearing equipment and vote yes on HB2994.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Carver".

Jennifer Carver, M.Ed.