

Submitter: Lyndsay Duffus

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2994

My name is Lyndsay Duffus and I am a pediatric audiologist at Doernbecher Children's Hospital/OHSU in Portland, OR. I have been a practicing audiologist for almost 20 years, with 15 of those years specializing in pediatrics. I work every day with children with hearing loss and see the impact that technology costs have on working families. I also see the negative impacts of very high deductibles on my families with private insurance. I had one family, in particular, whose \$5000 deductible made it impossible for them to afford a NEEDED hearing device for their child. They had to seek out private grants and other help, which severely delayed this child getting the hearing device he so needed. Also, hearing devices need batteries to function - and those batteries cost money. Many insurance companies do not cover the cost of batteries, even those they are necessary for function of the device.

This bill will help families IMMEDIATELY and make access to much-needed care and technology easier for them - and for the audiologists who care for them. As a pediatric audiologist, my primary goal is to help children hear. Too much of my time gets taken up with fighting insurance appeals for denial of devices or device accessories. Children deserve the right to hear - and hear without interruption.

Please vote 'yes' on this bill - and help Oregon families and children by alleviating the stress and worry that they often have - 'how am I going to afford this?!'. With children's healthcare, parents should never need to ask that question.

If you have any questions, you can reach me at [duffusl@ohsu.edu](mailto:duffusl@ohsu.edu). Thank you for your time.

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