

Submitter: Summer Steele

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

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Summer Steele

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

HB2994

I have a 9 year old son who, without the hearing aids and FM system he uses, would not be able to thrive as he has since he was first fitted with aids at 6 months of age. When my son was first born my husband and I experienced a lot up upheaval and at one point, I was the only one bringing in a steady income. Had insurance not helped in covering my son's hearing aids, ear molds, audiology appts, ENT visits, etc, we wouldn't have been able to afford covering these services and devices on our own. My son would have gone without or there would have been a significant delay in getting him what he needed and that would only put him behind in his learning and living his life. When children are denied essential services at the time they are needed, you truly spend a lifetime catching up. You ultimately pay more in the long run implementing services to "fix" the things that had they been addressed early, wouldn't need fixing. Please pass this bill to allow families to support their children in a way that allows them to thrive, not just survive.