

HB 243 – Proponent Testimony by Evan Murphy B.S.
House Health Committee
October 8, 2019

Chairman Merrin, Vice-Chairman Manning, Ranking Member Boyd and members of the House Health Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 243. My name is Evan Murphy, I am an Audiology graduate student enrolled at the University of Cincinnati and current Au.D. intern Cincinnati Children's Hospital. I am writing you today in support of HB 243. It is my passion to serve children with hearing loss and everyday I get the opportunity to witness the enormous benefit that hearing aids can provide these individuals. In contrast, I have observed families who cannot afford these devices and as a result, are forced accept a lower quality of life for their children. Untreated hearing impairment in any form has been proven to have a negative impact on global childhood development including speech/language development and educational outcomes. Unfortunately, for many of these individuals, there exist many barriers to treatment including the lack of insurance coverage for hearing aids. Charitable organizations and financial assistance programs certainly help, but there exists an overabundance of children who never receive the care they need due to monetary constraints. As a proud Ohio native, I am passionate about the welfare of my community and this bill will take a progressive step toward improving the healthcare for all Ohioans. In addition, insuring early intervention and treatment services are available to the youth of Ohio will ultimately lower the amount of state spending toward healthcare and educational services. In consideration of these factors, I ask my state representatives to support the passing of House Bill 243. Thank you very much for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Sincerely,
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