



October 17, 2019

Re: HB243

To Whom It May Concern;

I would like to write a personal note in support of HB243. As a pediatric audiologist and more recently, an audiology care coordinator at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, it has become even more painful to recognize that one of the greatest barriers to treatment for people who are deaf or hard of hearing is the burden on the family to pay for hearing devices. Research has consistently shown that the best outcomes for communication development and learning require access to sound as soon as possible after a diagnosis of hearing loss.

To reduce the social, emotional and educational impact of hearing loss on each individual and society, better access to financial support through insurance coverage would help reduce the delays in treatment as well as ease the burden on families who must purchase devices. I strongly support this bill and the benefit to all those affected by the challenges of living with hearing loss.

Hearing loss is not a choice and the devices required to manage the hearing loss should be not considered a choice any family has to make because of a financial hardship. Hearing loss is a medical condition that can result in long term difficulties, when not managed properly.

Please consider the incredible minds that may not reach their full potential without adequate access to sound, due to a lack of insurance coverage and the prohibitive cost to families.

Thank you for your consideration and thoughtfulness on this important bill.

Lori Garland, AuD
Pediatric Audiologist/Audiology Care Coordinator
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
3333 Burnet Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45229