

At any given point a parent will advocate for their child. It may be to get more reading support, a place on the soccer team, or some extra credit to help with math. Our life is a little different. My husband Jeremy and I have had the privilege of advocating for Whit and his best interests since he was 10 seconds old. It's a privilege and an honor to give Whitman the best life that he deserves, attempting this in a lot of cases for us the costs can add up quickly. At one point on our journey we were told that Whitman was deaf. I fell deep into research and realized that there were so many options for Whitman to be able to hear us if he so chose. As I was finding the ideas my husband, the budgeter, kept telling me there was no way that these would be covered by our insurance. I couldn't quite process that at the moment because why wouldn't an insurance company want a child to hear? As we waited the 8 weeks for confirmation on whether Whit had hearing loss I worried what our future would look like. What would the cost be? Do we take out loans for what insurance won't cover? Is there a grant I could use to help with the sudden financial burden we might have? We were fortunate enough to find out that Whitman didn't have hearing loss and our journey towards his actual diagnosis took a detour but the thought of not being able to afford hearing aids because they are considered cosmetic kept me up far after we knew Whitman didn't need them. I thought about the mom who would be delivered life altering news and then find out that hearing aids were considered cosmetic and not automatically covered because they're needed. When you have a child with a disability you are in a constant fight for services, getting help paying for devices that can better their lives, and trying to be the best parent you can be. As a Regional Director for The Arc of Ohio I would love to help organize parents who are in support of this as it will help families with children who have disabilities. Please consider voting yes for Madeline's Law to help lessen the burden for those who need hearing aids. Let's make their lives more accessible.

