Action Alert: Does Your State Require Insurance Coverage of Children’s Hearing Aids?

Joni Alberg
BEGINNINGS For Parents of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Inc.

Tamala Bradham
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
How a Bill Becomes a Law

Full House/Senate

Full Committee

Subcommittee

Governor

Law
Features of Laws

Specifics of coverage (hearing aids, ear molds, dispensing fees, etc.)

Age of children covered

Frequency of benefit

Amount of coverage

Effective date
Age Ranges

- No limits mentioned - Arkansas, Missouri, Wisconsin
- Minor Children - Maryland
- ≥ 15 years - New Jersey
- ≥ 19 years - Rhode Island
- ≥ 24 years - Delaware
- 18 years - Colorado, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Oklahoma
- ≥ 18 years or ≥ 21 if still in high school - New Mexico
- ≥ 18 years; older if enrolled in accredited educational institution - Oregon
Frequency

- 1 Hearing aid per ear every 2 years (n=1)
  OR
- 1 Hearing aid per ear every 3 years (n=11)
  OR
- 1 Hearing aid per ear every 4 years (n=2)
  OR
- 1 Hearing aid per ear every 5 years (n=1)
  OR
- No limits (n=1)
Amount of Coverage

From a low of $700 to a high of unlimited coverage

On average, $1,400 per hearing aid.
NC Legislation Status

- $2,500 per ear/36 mos./< 21 yrs.
- 3 House & 2 Senate Committees
- Passed Senate
- Sent to conference committee ...where it remains to be addressed

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www.actionalert.hearfromthestart.info
TN Legislation Status

- Up to $1,000 per hearing aid every three years until the age of 24

- In subcommittees in both the House and Senate

- Created website: [www.hearintn.com](http://www.hearintn.com)
Strategies

- Begin BEFORE the legislative session begins (draft language, sponsors)
- Children’s voices
- One person as primary contact for legislators—Expert witness
- Build relationships and alliances—including insurance lobbyists
- Fact sheet/brochure
  - Minimal printed information—one-page
What Legislators What to Know

✓ Cost now vs. savings later

✓ # children/families impacted by county/district

✓ Insurance premium increase due to mandate

✓ How many people will be affected by this law

✓ Just the facts
• Have *lots* of people wearing stickers, ribbons, identifying your cause

• Day on the Hill - Child Advocacy Day

• Communication—Website, Twitter, Phone Calls, Letters, Email

• Collaborate- AG Bell, Hands and Voices, HLAA Chapters, ASHA/AAA Chapters (larger programs may have lobbyists!!)

*CAUTION--State Employees - limitations*

Activities
Lessons Learned

• Know your facts
• Follow your bill every step of the way
• Take nothing for granted
• Make the issue REAL
CONTACT US

jalberg@ncbegin.org

tamala.bradham@Vanderbilt.Edu