



**REPRESENTATIVE RICK LEWIS
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DISTRICT 18**

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**Representative Lewis Leads Efforts
to Assist Hearing-Impaired Medicaid Patients**

SALEM. Ore. – Rep. Rick Lewis (R-Silverton) applauds the Oregon Health Authority’s adoption of an administrative rule allowing hearing-impaired Medicaid patients to receive two hearing aids.

Rep. Lewis previously drafted legislation for the 2019 session to change a long-standing policy limiting adult Medicaid patients to one hearing aid. The modification benefits all Medicaid-eligible Oregonians who were previously limited to one hearing aid every five years.

“When people lose hearing in one ear, they typically lose it in both,” Rep. Lewis said. “If they have one hearing aid most sound comes from one direction.”

The Oregon Health Authority reviewed its options last fall and discovered the Federal government allowed states to make such changes administratively. Subsequently, OHA approved an administrative rule change on Nov. 6, opening the door for Medicaid patients who have long needed the additional hearing aid to receive one.

“I really appreciate what OHA did, expediting the process, and making this happen for the people who really need two hearing aids,” Lewis said.

Technology advances have reduced the price of hearing aids.

“The fact it doesn’t cost additional money to make this happen is really important,” Rep. Lewis said.

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