



From the Offices of State Representatives Hai Pham, Charlie Conrad, and Lisa Reynolds

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Expanded Access to Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants for Children Signed Into Law

SALEM, Ore - This past session, a bipartisan group of legislators came together to extend coverage of hearing aids, cochlear implants and assistive listening devices for children by passing [House Bill 2994](#). Today, Governor Kotek signed this legislation into law.

“This is a huge win for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community as this legislation will expand access and affordability to hearing aids and cochlear implants for children to improve their quality of life,” **said Representative Hai Pham (D-South Hillsboro & West Beaverton), co-chief sponsor of the bill.** “As a pediatric dentist, I believe that all Oregon’s children and their families should have access to adequate coverage without significant financial burden.”

Hearing loss in one or both ears occurs in [two to three children out of 1,000](#) in the US. The first few months of a child’s development is a critical period for learning speech and language skills and early intervention services can significantly improve the child’s quality of life.

“Thanks to early intervention services and with the passage of HB 2994 every child with hearing loss has the opportunity to have confidence.” **said Representative Charlie Conrad (R- Eastern Lane County), co-chief sponsor of the bill.** “Deaf and hard-of-hearing children deserve the services needed to achieve their full potential.”

“We know that early identification and supportive interventions with deaf and hard of hearing children greatly enhances their cognitive development, academic success, and life-time career goals,” **said Representative Lisa Reynolds (D-Washington County), co-chief sponsor of the bill and pediatrician.**

In 2018, legislation was passed to require the coverage of hearing aids, cochlear implants, and certain assistive listening devices for kids. Unfortunately, in implementation, children and families have struggled to get coverage for these critical services and devices. HB 2994 remedies

this by clarifying the coverage of services and devices to ensure all children have the opportunity to thrive.

Oregon joins more than 25 states that have already passed similar legislation.

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