

# Comment Report

HF 2188

A bill for an act relating to health insurance coverage for hearing aids for covered persons age eighteen and younger.(See HF 2491, HF 2568.)

Subcommittee Members: Lundgren-CH, Brown-Powers, Dolecheck

Date: 02/15/2022

Time: 08:30 AM

Location: House Lounge

**Name:** Brittany Tibben

**Comment:** My daughter, 10, and I will be present for the meeting. She would love to meet you and give a quick speech if possible. Thank you!

**Name:** Lenore Holte

**Comment:** Please support this legislation that is so important for children in Iowa. Almost 200 children are born each year in Iowa with hearing loss that can adversely impact language development and learning. For families who choose spoken language, the first crucial step is the fitting of appropriate hearing aids, yet this is too costly for most families. Although some state funding exists through the Iowa Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program to help Iowa families, this fund runs out quickly every year, resulting in delays in hearing aid fitting. Without this effective early intervention, excess lifetime special education costs per child exceed \$400,000. In the 22 other states in which similar legislation has passed, insurance coverage of childrens hearing aids has not significantly increased premiums.