





OREGON
HEALTH
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Legislative Update
House Bill 2589


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House Bill 2589



Why a bill?

- Hearing and Development of Speech and Language
- Hearing Loss and Impact on Reading, Academic Achievement, and Social/Emotional Development
- Newborn Screening
- Hearing Aids and Early Intervention
- Out-of-pocket Costs
- Precedent




A (Very Short) History of OCCYSHN's Effort

2007 Oregon State Legislative Session



To

2009 Oregon State Legislative Session




HB 2589: Who it Covers

- Covers enrollees up to the age of 18
- Covers enrollees 18 years or older, eligible as a dependent under the plan and enrolled in accredited educational institution



HB 2589: What it Covers

- Requires *state-regulated* private insurance to provide a \$4000 hearing aid benefit every 4 years
- Includes earmolds
- Does not include batteries or cords



HB 2589: What Else it Says

- The hearing aid must be prescribed, fitted and dispensed by a licensed audiologist with the approval of licensed physician
- Nothing precludes families from purchasing a hearing aid priced higher than the benefit amount, if they choose to do so



The benefit amount of \$4000 will be adjusted annually to reflect any increases in the Consumer Price Index.



The bill becomes effective January 1, 2010 and applies to health benefit plans as new certificates are issued or policies are renewed.



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