

HCS HBs 2626 & 1918 -- MO HEALTHNET COVERAGE OF HEARING-RELATED DEVICES

SPONSOR: Parker

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Healthcare Reform by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2626.

Currently, MO HealthNet payments shall be made for eligible needy children, pregnant women, and blind persons for, among other services, hearing aids. This bill authorizes MO HealthNet coverage of hearing aids and cochlear implants for all eligible needy persons as described in Chapter 208, RSMo.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that residents of Missouri with hearing loss face a variety of obstacles when trying to receive treatment, including limited access. These devices can reduce the risk of falls and cognitive decline in older patients, as well as improve both mental health and financial capacity of users.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Parker; Kathleen Sinks, Center For Hearing And Speech; Missouri Hearing Society; Mo Speech Hearing Association; and Payton Guinn.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.