



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BECKY DAVIS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-298-6752</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>
ADDRESS: <b>3216 EMERALD LANE, SUITE B</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL: <b>becky.davis@mcdhh.mo.gov</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/13/2024 11:17 AM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**Dear Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to submit my support of HB1918. I am the current Director of the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. While we currently run a program to assist low-income families with the purchasing of hearing aids, we are only able to assist approximately 35-40 people a year. We are often restrained by rules of our program funding leaving people to find assistance elsewhere or to reapply for the next cycle. Adding hearing aids under Mo HealthNet would allow for many individuals new to hearing loss or experiencing late onset of hearing loss an easier way access devices that would have significant impact on their daily lives.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRENT HEMPHILL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: <b>MO SPEECH HEARING ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>P.O. BOX 156</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/13/2024 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CAROLINE GRACE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>carolinegrace@charter.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/13/2024 10:45 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHRISTINA KOEHLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>christina.koehler@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2024 11:58 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Hearing devices and the hearing related services necessary to appropriately fit and treat hearing loss are currently not a covered benefit for adult MO Healthnet beneficiaries. This has created an inequity in the State of Missouri as this vital technology is not accessible in the most vulnerable of our population. I am writing to ask your support of HB2626, currently being considered by the Missouri General Assembly in order to address this inequity.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ELIZABETH BRENNAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kohlea77@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/9/2024 12:22 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

I am writing in support of HB 2626 - Parker - MO Healthnet Coverage of hearing-related devices. As an audiologist for the past 20+ years I have seen firsthand the impact of hearing loss. Countless studies have shown the negative impact untreated hearing loss has on communication, learning, employment, overall health across all ages and more recently, increased risks of dementia. While Missouri has made progress in supporting our pediatric patients, there remains a critical need to support our older citizens. Without access to hearing technologies such as hearing aids and cochlear implants, our citizens will be placed at greater risk of socio-economic challenges which in turn impacts the community at large. There is incredible hearing technology available which should not be viewed as a luxury reserved only for those with the means to pay for it. The ability to hear and participate within ones family, school, employment and overall health is a basic need that all individuals deserve. Please support this Bill to grant access to all Missourians with hearing loss.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>GREGORY BAUM</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>glbaum@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2024 2:40 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**My niece was born with almost total hearing loss, and the only reason she can hear is because my brother has a good job with excellent insurance - they were able to provide her with a cochlear implant. Many people do not have that option. Please expand these services to the most vulnerable members of our society.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JEANETTE MOTT OXFORD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-289-4303</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>PARAQUAD</b>		TITLE: <b>PUBLIC POLICY &amp; ADVOCACY MANAGER</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>5240 OAKLAND AVENUE</b>			
CITY: <b>SAINT LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63110</b>
EMAIL: <b>jmo.mott.oxford@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/13/2024 9:30 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Paraquad is one of Missouri's 22 centers for independent living, advocating for equity and independence for people with disabilities through services, partnerships, education, and advocacy. We provide five core services: peer counseling, advocacy, independent living skills training, information and referral, and transitions (from nursing home to community, from youth to post-secondary life, etc.). The MO Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has gone on record in support of this bill. We respect this ally organization that is important to our staff members and program participants who are deaf, so we add our voices to theirs. Note: My work email has locked up due to a security threat that our IT people will have to resolve, so I am using my home email to get this online testimony in by tonight's deadline. My work email is preferred if you want to reach me: [joxford@paraquad.org](mailto:joxford@paraquad.org).



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JOSHUA M. SAPPINGTON, MD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>joshua.sappington@slucare.ssmhealth.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/13/2024 11:12 AM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

My name is Joshua M. Sappington, MD and I am a neurotologist and lateral skull base specialist at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. My career and practice is dedicated to caring for patients with hearing loss. The current gap in hearing restoration coverage for Missouri residents on Missouri Medicaid is something that needs to be addressed immediately. Individuals over the age of 21 with hearing loss face significant challenges secondary to their medical condition. They are not able to interact with their world around them leading to an inability to work, decreased compensation at work, decreased quality of life and potential neurocognitive decline later in life. To make it simple if a person cannot hear and cannot communicate efficiently they will not maximize their potential compensation and/or cannot work. This has long ranging implications for the individual patient with their finances and retirement, the local and state economy as individuals will work lower paying jobs or not at all. Patients who are unable to work face economic hardship and the potential of being on disability which is far more expensive than a hearing restoration device. To further compound this hearing loss is a life long disease which is progressive in nature. Unfortunately, patients will not improve their hearing as they age which means that the hearing patients have today is the best hearing they will have the rest of their life. Missouri residents who need services for hearing aids, cochlear implantation, or osteointegrated implants have a critical medical need that we need to address. I fully support expansion of hearing devices for all Missouri Medicaid adults over 21 as a hearing specialist, someone who has battled hearing loss personally, and has a family member who has received cochlear implantation. Thank you for your consideration.





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JOYCE KELLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>jmkeller99@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/13/2024 11:35 AM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**As an older person who needs these devices I recognize how important hearing is to normal functioning**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JULIE L ADOLPHSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>julie.hydrogenalpha@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2024 3:07 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**VOTE YES on HB 2626. I have been hearing impaired since birth. I was fortunate to have good health insurance so I was able to get my first pair of hearing aids in 2013. I fully support coverage for all, most especially those who need the but can not afford them. MO HealthNet payments are made for eligible children in need, pregnant women, and blind persons, for among other services, hearing aids. This bill authorizes coverage of hearing aids and cochlear implants for all eligible persons in need as described in Chapter 208, RSMo. VOTE YES on HB 2626!**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KATHLEEN SINKS</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-749-4091</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>CENTER FOR HEARING AND SPEECH</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF AUDIOLOGY</b>
ADDRESS: <b>9835 MANCHESTER RD</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63119</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/13/2024 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KATHY J MARINCEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>kmarincel@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/12/2024 1:26 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

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



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LAURA FLOWERS, AUD</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>flowers@handbkc.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/13/2024 4:22 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**As a practicing audiologist in the state of Missouri, I support these measures as they expand access to hearing care for a wide groups of individuals with hearing loss.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MAHREE SKALA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>skalamahree@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/12/2024 5:16 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**MoHealthNet should be able to pay for hearing aids and cochlear implants for all people who are eligible for MoHealthNet services. These devices can change people's lives, making them more productive citizens.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MALLORY RUSCH</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-306-8945</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>EMPOWER MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>
ADDRESS: <b>1750 JEFFERSON ST, #104900</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65110</b>
EMAIL: <b>mallory@empowermissouri.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/10/2024 9:34 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

Date: February 12, 2024 To: Chairman Haden and Members, House Healthcare Reform From: Mallory Rusch, Executive Director, Empower Missouri RE: Our support for HB 1918 and HB 2626

Empower Missouri has spent more than 120 years fighting poverty in Missouri. Today, we come to present testimony on a bill which specifically targets our neighbors with the lowest incomes. On behalf of our staff, board, and coalition members we are asking you to support HB 1918 and HB 2626. Hearing aids and cochlear implants are critical resources for individuals with hearing impairment or a full loss of hearing. According to the Hearing Industries Association, the average cost of prescription hearing aids ranges between \$1,000 and \$4,000, depending on the severity of the hearing loss. In Missouri, the income cap for individuals receiving healthcare through MO HealthNet is \$19,392. The income cap for a family of four is \$39,900. I would implore this committee to consider your own families' annual income and expenses, and then consider if you feel like an individual or family earning this low of an income could manage to afford a \$2,500 medical bill just to be able to hear. If this issue is debated the way that I've seen similar issues debated in this committee, I'm sure that lobbyists for the health insurance industry will tell you that when you add additional services, like hearing aids, to healthcare plans, the prices will go up for everyone on those plans. That may be the case, but that is a choice made by the health insurance industry. Meanwhile, CEOs of major healthcare companies like Anthem, Aetna and United Healthcare are raking in between \$15M and \$25M annually in salaries, bonuses, and stock options. This is simply another case of forcing those with the least among us to beg for basic necessities while the rich get richer. As a taxpayer whose tax dollars go to fund programs like Medicaid, I want those funds to ensure that families covered by Medicaid aren't just surviving, but thriving. I know that there are many, many other Missourians who agree with me. The ability to hear is necessary to thrive. Please vote "do pass" on these bills.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARILYN MCLEOD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-239-3708</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>
ADDRESS: <b>8706 MANCHESTER RD.</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63144</b>
EMAIL: <b>marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/12/2024 6:34 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

The League of Women Voters believes that every US resident should have access to a basic level of healthcare and supports this bill authorizing funding for the coverage of hearing aids and cochlear implants for all eligible persons in need.





MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARK J. VAN ESS, DO, MHA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mark.vaness@mercy.net</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/13/2024 11:58 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I am a practicing Otolaryngologist subspecialized in Otology and Neurotology (ear and skull base surgery) serving in Springfield, MO. Our practice (and organization - Mercy) is one of a few committed to caring for the underserved in our region. I help provide medical and surgical care for adult and pediatric Medicaid patients that do or would benefit significantly from hearing devices (hearing aids and cochlear implantation). At this pint, I am the only Otolaryngologist in the region (South Missouri) performing these necessary services. Currently there is no hearing aid or Cochlear Implant coverage for adults on Missouri Medicaid over the age of 21 unless they are blind, pregnant, or in a long-term care facility. Despite my organization's commitment to providing care for these patients, they are being denied access to critical healthcare which directly affects their ability to maintain employment and communicate. Expansion of coverage in this area would help these patients obtain critical hearing health services. This would allow many of them to maintain or obtain employment and significantly improve their quality of life in a large majority of cases.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARY JANE LANE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mjflane@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/8/2024 7:45 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

Hearing is an essential need for every individual. It impacts the way we live, communicate, interact with family and all of community. It is not right that these services are not covered. If people are to participate as citizens, assisted hearing devices are fundamental. Thank you for supporting this House Bill 2626



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MAUREEN FISCHER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:                  ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mmstephens76@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/12/2024 4:25 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Same as HB1918



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>PAYTON GUINN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/13/2024 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>RANDY SCHERR</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-636-6200</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI HEARING SOCIETY</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>101 E. HIGH,, BOX 1543</b>		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>65102</b>
EMAIL: <b>rjscherr@swllc.us.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/13/2024 9:31 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAI GOMEZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>gomezs@chsstl.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/13/2024 10:01 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I am writing today to ask you to support HB1918/HB2626. I am an employee at the Center for Hearing & Speech and I have seen first hand how access to communication is vital for the overall health of individuals. I have witnessed patients being isolated, depressed and suicidal because they cannot afford proper amplification. By supporting HB1918/HB2626 not only will you change peoples lives, but it will also help our economy in the long run.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>TAMMY RAMSEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>ramseyolympia@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/11/2024 9:17 AM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

Have you ever tried living in a silent world of no communication - one where you cannot hear and you don't bother speaking because you won't hear any return communication? Try it. Just for one day. Put noise-cancelling headphones on and imagine a full day without one of the very things that sets us apart as humans. The ability to communicate. This bill is so very critical to ensuring our residents can live a life in fullness. Value peer-reviewed legitimate research shows that those not provided a means to communicate will be a greater burden on society without the ability to hear. Dementia, mental health disturbances, increased sickness, and more. So pay me now...or pay me later at a much greater expense.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2626</b>		DATE: <b>2/13/2024</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Healthcare Reform</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>TERESA KLEBER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>treetops46@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/12/2024 12:52 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

**My husband is hard of hearing. Hearing aids have made all the difference in his safety and well being. People who are financially disadvantaged should be able to obtain help to afford these devices. Hearing us a basic human need.**