

BILL NUMBER: HB 469			DATE: 1/28/2025
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING : ✓ IN SUPPORT OF	IN OPPOSITION TO	FOR INFORMA	TIONAL PURPOSES
	WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALLEN SCHELP		PHONE NUMBE	:R:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: elroycpa@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DA 1/27/202	NTE: 25 5:10 PM

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

My 17-yr-old son Nathan wears hearing aids. A hearing impairment is just one of the many disabilities he has. It is also the one disability that can be "fixed" through the usage of hearing aids. The ability to hear is important for him to be able to participate and contribute to society. Currently our insurance covers the cost of his hearing aids, but when he becomes an adult, he will likely shift to MOHealthNet and the hearing aids will not be covered. My son has the ability to hear with hearing aids. Please allow him to continue hearing throughout adulthood by passing this bill.



BILL NUMBER: HB 469				DAT 1/2	E: 8/2025
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental	l Health			·	
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INF	FORMATIO	NAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONES	WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE PHONE NUMBER:				
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: TITLE:					
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			STATE	≣:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yah	oo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		UBMIT DATE: /28/2025 1	1:57 PM
THE INFORMA	TION ON THIS FORM	IS PUBLIC RECOR	D UNDER	CHAPTE	R 610. RSMo.



BILL NUMBER: HB 469				DATE: 1/28/2025
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental	Health		·	
TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	DBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENT HEMPHILL			PHONE NUME	BER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI SPEEC	H LANGUAGE HEARIN	NG ASSOCIATION	TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 156				
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 1/28/20	DATE: 25 12:00 AM
THE INFORMAT	TION ON THIS FOR	M IS PUBLIC RECOR	D UNDER CHA	PTER 610. RSMo.



BILL NUMBER: HB 469				DATE: 1/28/2025
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental	Health		·	
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: CHRISTINA KOEH	LER		PHONE NUMB	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	DN NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			·	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 1/28/20	OATE: 25 12:00 AM
THE INFORMA	TION ON THIS FOR	M IS PUBLIC RECORI	D UNDER CHA	PTER 610. RSMo.



WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 469				DATE: 1/28/2025		
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health						
TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFOR	MATIONAL PURPOSES		
		WITNESS NAME				
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:					
WITNESS NAME: CINDY CLARK			PHONE NU 636-534			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION EMMAUS HOMES	ON NAME:		TITLE: PRESIDENT & CEO			
ADDRESS: 3731 MUELLER RI	D					
CITY: ST. CHARLES			STATE: MO	ZIP: 63301		
EMAIL: clarkc@emmaush	omes.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		T DATE: 2025 10:39 AM		

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

Emmaus Homes is a 130-year-old developmental disability services provider that supports adults with disabilities in their own homes in the community. We serve Missourians in the St. Charles and St. Louis region. Many of the adults our staff support are elderly, and many have aged into hearing loss. All of our clients have a Medicaid waiver, meaning their health insurance is also through Medicaid. While a handful of the over 200 adults we serve may be able to private pay for items like hearing aids, most are on fixed incomes, relying on Medicaid for services and healthcare and then Social Security for rent, utilities, food, and other expenses. To ensure our clients get what they need no matter what, we work with their case managers to find grants or other sources of income to cover the cost of hearing aids. We even use some of our fundraising to cover these items as well. We believe that Medicaid should cover these items as they are critical to our clients successfully being integrated into the community and having a great quality of life, which all people with hearing loss deserve. Please support HB 177. Thank you.



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TESTIFYING:	✓ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH BREN	NAN		PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	N NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kohlea@gmail.com	n	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT I 1/27/20	DATE: 125 12:50 PM

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

I am writing as a clinical audiologist of 20+ years, asking you to support HB469 for coverage of hearing related devices for Missouri adults. Currently Missouri covers these devices for our pediatric citizens, however this coverage ends right when they are ready to enter higher education or the workforce. As a result, this limits their ability to fully contribute to their family and community. Hearing loss affects all ages and hearing healthcare should not end simply because of an individual's age. Please support this bill to ensure all of our Missouri residents achieve their full potential through the advanced technology available to treat their hearing loss.



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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	NATIONAL PURPOSES	
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: EUGENE J. MEYE	R		PHONE NUM	BER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: eugenejmeyer@gr	mail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 1/27/20	DATE: 025 1:13 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.					

I have a hearing loss and wear hearing aids. The aids are crucial to my well being and ability to be productive. Expanding the coverage of hearing aids and other related hearing devices to HealthNet recipients is very important. I support this bill and encourage passage of the bill.



WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 469				DATE: 1/28/2025
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental H	lealth		•	
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORMA	TIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: HOPE SHRAKE			PHONE NUMBER	R:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: hope.blizz@gmail.c	om	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 8:54 AM	

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

Hello, I am a device user, I am currently 28 years old and I have been using a cochlear implant since I was 4 years old. I speak English and I sign American Sign Language. My speech therapy has been successful. I am profoundly deaf but with my cochlear implant, I can hear about 80-90% of the time. I use my implant on a daily basis that helps me get through the world that is dominated by hearing people. It's not perfect but it truly does aid me through many difficult situations including doctors' appointments, attending church, even interacting with day to day lives like finding groceries that I need or directions to a place. Getting an upgrade or any sort of coverage for cochlear implants is incredibly challenging, it's easier for a Hard of Hearing individual to get support than it is for a profound deaf individual. Every 7-9 years, I have to get a new implant and it is a battle to get support and any sort of coverage. These cochlear implants cost thousands of dollars and truly aids me through out my entire life. I am almost at the 8 year mark with my latest cochlear implant with a coverage that will not support cochlear implants, and only hearing aids. I fear that my accessibility will be taken away once I am no longer able to use my implant. There is a lot that is taken for granted when I cannot hear: appointments, waiters/waitresses, music, audiobooks, movies/tv shows, rain, birds chirping, honking, ambulances, phone calls, talking to family members, friends who do not sign, and so many more. Imagine a world on mute and not being able to afford to hear anything. I value my implant and I value my accessibility. It truly does support me in many different ways.



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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental	Health			·	
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	FOR	INFORMATIC	NAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: ISABELLA MENDO	DZA		PH	ONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	N NAME:		TIT	ΓLE:	
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			ST	ATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: isabella.mendoza@	@slu.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 8	:58 PM

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

Hearing is part of what allows people to become active participants in the world around them. It enables communication, fosters connections, and helps individuals navigate social and environmental cues. Without it, people would miss out on important interactions and key information that contribute to a fuller, more engaged experience in everyday life. Hearing also plays a crucial role in people's safety by allowing them to detect potential dangers, like sirens, warnings, or approaching vehicles. Quick responses can prevent accidents and help individuals make informed decisions in hazardous situations. By granting more coverage through Medicaid there becomes more access to necessary equipment that helps ensure people's safety as well as participation their community. In my personal experience I watched my grandmother struggle to get hearing aids because of her insurance and worried about her safety as she was often home alone. She also stopped attending social events and doing simple things like going to church because she was embarrassed she couldn't participate in conversations. By passing this bill, more people will live better lives where they can communicate with those around them.



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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental	Health		-	
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JUSTIN ALFERMA	AN		PHONE NUMB	ER:
REPRESENTING: SSM HEALTH			TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 1/28/20	OATE: 25 12:00 AM
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BILL NUMBER: HB 469				DA ⁻	TE: 28/2025
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental	Health			·	
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR I	NFORMATIC	NAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: KATE SINKS, AUD), ABAC, CCCA		PH	ONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TIT	LE:	
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			STA	ATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 1	2:00 AM
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BILL NUMBER: HB 469				DAT 1/2	E: 8/2025
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental	Health			·	
TESTIFYING:	✓ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFO	ORMATIO	NAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: KAY PARK			PHONE	NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			STATE:		ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:		BMIT DATE: 28/2025 1:	2:00 AM
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WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 469					ATE: /28/2025
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental	Health				
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR I	NFORMATI	ONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLI	ESTON		PH	ONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TIT	LE:	
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			ST	ATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston	n@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE 1/28/2025	8:09 PM

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

I urge you to support HB177 and HB469. Hearing aids and cochlear implants are essential for individuals with hearing impairments or complete hearing loss. The Hearing Industries Association reports that the average cost of prescription hearing aids ranges from \$1,000 to \$4,000, depending on the severity of the hearing loss. In Missouri, the income threshold for individuals receiving healthcare through MO HealthNet is \$19,392, and for a family of four, it is \$39,900. I ask this committee to reflect on your own family's annual income and expenses and consider whether an individual or family earning such a modest income could afford a \$2,500 medical expense just to regain the ability to hear. If this issue is debated in the same manner as similar issues I've seen in this committee. I anticipate that lobbyists for the health insurance industry will argue that adding services like hearing aids to healthcare plans will increase costs for everyone. While this may be true, it is a decision driven by the health insurance industry. At the same time, CEOs of major healthcare companies such as Anthem, Aetna, and United Healthcare are earning between \$15 million and \$25 million annually in salaries, bonuses, and stock options. This is yet another example of forcing those with the least to struggle for basic necessities while the wealthy continue to grow richer. As a taxpayer whose contributions fund programs like Medicaid, I want these funds to ensure that families covered by Medicaid are not merely surviving but thriving. I know many other Missourians share this sentiment. The ability to hear is fundamental to thriving. I respectfully ask you to vote "do pass" on these bills.



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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: KRISTEN LEWIS, A	AUD		PHONE NUMB	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			·	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 1/28/20	OATE: 25 12:00 AM
THE INFORMA	TION ON THIS FOR	M IS PUBLIC RECORI	D UNDER CHA	PTER 610, RSMo.



WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental	Health			•
TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	NATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MALLORY RUSCH			PHONE NUM 314-306-8	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION EMPOWER MISSO			TITLE: EXECUTI	VE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: PO BOX 104900				
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65110
EMAIL: mallory@empowe	rmissouri.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT 1/28/2	DATE: 025 12:04 PM

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

January 28, 2025To: Chairman Stinnett and Members, House Health & Mental Health Date: Mallory Rusch, Executive Director, Empower MissouriRE: CommitteeFrom: support for HB 177 and HB 469Empower 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 177 and HB 469. 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 \$20.814. The income cap for a family of four is \$42.759. 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.



BILL NUMBER: HB 469			DAT 1/2	E: 2 8/2025
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			·	
TESTIFYING: ✓IN SUF	PPORT OF IN OPP	OSITION TO FOR	INFORMATIC	NAL PURPOSES
	WITNES	S NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW COX		Pł	HONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TI	TLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:		S	TATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: matthewpcox29@gmail.com	ATTENDAN Written	ICE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 8	:53 PM

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

Missouri House Bill 469, introduced by Representative Doll, is a vital step toward expanding MO HealthNet coverage to include hearing aids, cochlear implants, and related services for individuals with hearing loss. Access to hearing-related devices is crucial for improving quality of life, communication, and overall health outcomes. For children, it supports language development and academic success, while for adults, it promotes workforce participation and social engagement. By covering these essential devices, HB 469 ensures that low-income Missourians are not forced to bear the financial burden of untreated hearing loss, which can lead to isolation, cognitive decline, and other health issues. This bill reflects a commitment to equity in healthcare and recognizes that hearing health is an integral part of overall well-being. Expanding MO HealthNet coverage to include hearing-related devices is a compassionate and forward-thinking policy that will benefit countless Missourians.



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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	FOR INFORM	IATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER	२		PHONE NUM	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	DN NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail	.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 1/28/20	DATE:)25 8:07 PM

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

l ask you to support HB177 and HB469. 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.



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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Hea	lth			
TESTIFYING: ✓	IN SUPPORT OF [IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: PAYTON GUINN			PHONE NUMB	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAM	ME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			·	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: paytonsguinn@gmail.c	com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 1/28/20	OATE: 25 9:19 AM
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THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am an audiologist based out of Dardenne Prairie, Missouri, and I am asking you to support HB469 for coverage of hearing related devices for Missouri adults. Currently, these devices are covered for Missouri children. As these children are aging into the workforce or higher education, they lose coverage of these devices. This leaves them unable to communicate and participate in the everyday life. I am asking you to please extend this coverage to adult Missouri residents as well.



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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	MATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RANDY SCHERR			PHONE NUM 573-636-	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI HEARIN	NG SOCIETY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 101 E. HIGH				
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: rjscherr@swllc.us.	.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 1/28/2	DATE: 025 10:56 AM
THE INFORMAT	TION ON THIS FORM	I IS PUBLIC RECOR	D UNDER CHA	APTER 610, RSMo.



BILL NUMBER: HB 469				DATE: 1/28/2025
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental	Health		·	
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: SALENA KENNED	Υ		PHONE NUMB	ER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kennedys@chsstl	.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT D 1/27/20	PATE: 25 12:35 PM
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THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

As a hearing aid wearer and Hearing healthcare professional, I understand the difficulties of acquiring quality hearing aids. I am lucky that I have been fortunate and have been able to always afford my devices. However, If I should ever fall on hard times and need new aids to perform my job and have quality of life, I would find it reassuring to know that I can get professional care and replacement aids via Mo Healthnet. Assuring that I could still be a productive member of society.



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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFOR	RMATIO	NAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: SARAH PRECHTE	L		PHONE N	JMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	N NAME:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			STATE:		ZIP:
EMAIL: slograsso@gmail.	com	ATTENDANCE: Written		IIT DATE: /2025 8	:44 AM

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

Providing Medicaid coverage for hearing aids and cochlear implants for all adults is essential for improving overall quality of life, increasing workforce participation, and promoting health equity. Speaking from personal and professional experience, these devices help individuals who benefit from hearing aid(s) and or cochlear implant(s) to communicate effectively, maintain social connections, and prevent the mental health challenges often associated with untreated hearing loss, such as depression, cognitive decline, and social isolation. Addressing hearing loss also reduces long-term healthcare costs by mitigating risks of other health complications. Ensuring equitable access to hearing aids and cochlear implants allows low-income individuals to participate fully in society, pursue educational opportunities, and maintain functional independence. By offering coverage, Medicaid can support inclusivity and empower individuals to lead healthier, more connected lives.



ccorogenes@thewholeperson.org

MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: DATE: **HB 469** 1/28/2025 COMMITTEE: **Health and Mental Health** ☐ IN SUPPORT OF ✓ IN OPPOSITION TO FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES **TESTIFYING: WITNESS NAME** INDIVIDUAL: WITNESS NAME: PHONE NUMBER: **CLARK COROGENES** BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: TITLE: ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: 7IP· EMAIL: ATTENDANCE: SUBMIT DATE:

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

Written

1/28/2025 9:45 AM

my concerns about MO Healthnet coverage of hearing relation devices:Most times and not successful often for adult or older individuals who become late-deafened or hearing loss or speech impaired will struggle, hard to acquire or inability with hearing-related devices. They will have bad experiences and frustrations with identifying sounds or noises or barriers by communicating with their loved ones, family members or professionals. Strong recommendation that adds more coverages and services for adult or older individuals have a good opportunity with many communicate options: -American sign language therapy -English-based sign language therapy-Sign Language Tutors available-Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing loss mentorships -Setup peer support groups and events Providing a scholarship for sign language courses or workshops through communities like advocacy services providers or education centers or higher education like community colleges or universities.Preferred coverages only hearing aids, not cochlear implants, and come with teach a sign languages.



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COMMITTEE: Health and Mental	l Health			•
TESTIFYING:	☐ IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	MATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: JEFFREY L BRUN	ITMYER		PHONE NUM	IBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			·	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: jbruntmyer50@ou	tlook.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 1/28/2	DATE: 025 4:29 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.				

I Oppose This Bill



BILL NUMBER: HB 469				DATE: 1/28/2025	
COMMITTEE: Health and Menta	l Health			•	
TESTIFYING:	\square IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFOR	MATIONAL PURPOSE	S
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: SANDY SMITH			PHONE NUI	MBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:	
EMAIL: immssmittyuc@g	mail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		T DATE: 2025 3:02 PM	
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