

Michigan Coalition for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind People

~a non-profit organization



7C Lingo

ASL Deafined

Association for the Advancement of
Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Bronson Healthcare Group

DeafCAN

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

Deaf and Hearing Interpreting Services

Deaf Help Here

Detroit Disability Power

Hearing Loss Association of America –
Michigan

The Holley Institute

MDisability – Michigan Medicine

Metropolitan Interpreting Services

MI Disability Rights Coalition

MI Chapter Alexander Graham BELL
Association for the Deaf and Hard of
Hearing

MI Hands & Voices

MI School Professionals for Students
who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

ScreenLine, LLC

Signing Pros, LLC

V.O.I.C.E., Inc

Voices for Health

October 18, 2023

Dear House Insurance & Financial Services Committee:

The agencies represented by the Michigan Coalition for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind, in the left sidebar, are in support for the passing of both House Bills 4944 & 4963.

HB 4944 is about hearing aid health insurance coverage for deaf and hard of hearing children up to age 19, and HB 4963 is about necessary related hearing services and devices for this population.

This bill can help many D/HH children who uses or whose families want them to be able to use listening and spoken language as a mode of communication, which is the method that the vast majority of the population uses to communicate.

As you consider what action you will take regarding the passage of this bill, we ask that you not be limited by the number of children and families already affected and put before you today, but that you consider that this could easily affect any future child, grandchild, niece or nephew. 95% of D/HH children come from two hearing parents with no known history of atypical hearing in their families.

We ask that you make the right choice to support the passage of H.B. 4944 and H.B. 4963.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teddy Dorsette III". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Teddy Dorsette, III
President