



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)

To the Health and Government Operations

Chair: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk

March 5, 2024

House Bill 1339: Health Insurance - Hearing Aids for Adults - Coverage

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA), is in SUPPORT of House Bill 1339: Health Insurance - Hearing Aids for Adults - Coverage

Hearing aids can be vital to someone's overall health and well-being. In our population, patients with low health literacy are more likely to present with higher degrees of hearing loss but no less likely to obtain hearing aids than patients with adequate health literacy. Hearing loss severity and insurance coverage for hearing aids appear to be the main drivers of hearing aid adoption (Tran et al., 2021). That's why it's essential that health insurance benefits include hearing aid coverage.

*On behalf of the Maryland Rural Health Association,
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