



March 21st, 2024

**Bill: SB 778/HB 1339: Health Insurance – Hearing Aids for Adults -- Coverage**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association (MSHA) represents speech language pathologists and audiologists across Maryland. Collectively, we elevate and engage members to strive for excellence in serving those impacted by communication and related disorders through advocacy, equity, education, interprofessional collaboration, and leadership development.

We are writing in support of SB 778/HB 1339 as amended, which would require insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for medically necessary hearing aids for adults. Hearing aids provide access to spoken language, communication, environmental sounds, and safety alerts for people of all ages who are permanently deaf or hard of hearing. They are the accepted standard of care for many people with permanent hearing losses. These medically necessary devices enable adults who are permanently deaf or hard of hearing to receive education, attain and maintain employment, and engage with their communities. Hearing aids also support overall health, reducing risks for social isolation and dementia. For these reasons, MSHA supports SB 778/HB 1339.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Miskowski".

Megan Miskowski, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Director of Advocacy and Public Policy  
Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Sparks, Au.D., CCC-A, CH-TM".

Sarah Sparks, Au.D., CCC-A, CH-TM  
Director of Audiology  
Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association

Maryland Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
140B Purcellville Gateway Drive, Suite 120  
Purcellville, VA 20132  
301-304-7001  
[info@mdslha.org](mailto:info@mdslha.org)  
[www.mdslha.org](http://www.mdslha.org)