

To Whom it May Concern,

Equipment Connections for Children (<https://www.equipforchildren.org>) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that was established in 2009 to serve children living with disabilities in the greater Washington Metropolitan area by collecting and refurbishing costly adaptive equipment and redistributing it to other children who need it free of charge.

There are children living with disabilities who cannot get the adaptive equipment they need to help them live, learn, and thrive. These children are at high risk of further developmental delays and other negative health outcomes due to unreasonably long waiting periods, insurance rejections, and/or their families not having the ability to afford the devices. Some items such as adaptive strollers, car seats, and therapy bikes are not covered by insurance at all yet are very expensive and needed items.

Some examples of adaptive equipment are a standing frame to help children to stand, a walker or gait trainer to help with walking, an adapted seat to eat and play or a bath seat to hold them when they are bathing.

Adaptive equipment helps a child to be more independent, play and interact with their siblings or peers, move more independently, improve their learning, and have more independence in their personal skills such as eating, dressing and bathing. All of these lead to a happier child and healthier family life.

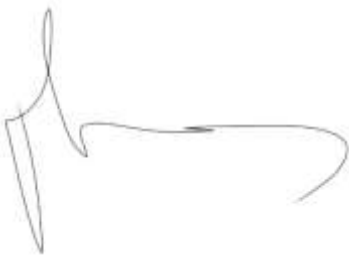
Our 2019 Gross revenue, excluding government grants, was \$827.6K, of which \$715K was in the form of noncash contributions (the equipment we refurbish and give away), and just \$112K, or 13.5%, was in the form of cash donations. We have maintained approximately this ratio of noncash donations to cash donations since our founding, although in earlier years, the amount of our available cash was even smaller.

While we have substantial gross revenues because of how the noncash donations need to be recorded, our small cash budget makes it difficult for us to meet Maryland's independent audit requirement. Further, recently revised accounting principles mean that continuing to include noncash contributions in Maryland's threshold for independent audits will remain an impediment to the growth of our services to serve larger numbers of children in need.

We therefore support the passage of SB0254, and urge that the threshold proportion of cash to total revenue be set to at least 25% to accommodate nonprofits like ours that collect, sort, refurbish, and redistribute goods to disabled Maryland children.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Jason Herring, MBA, MPH



Executive Director
Equipment Connections for Children