



Maryland

Speech-Language-Hearing  
Association

**Bill: SB 641/HB 1355: Health Insurance – Required Coverage – Hearing Aids**

**Position: OPPOSE**

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

The Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association 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 opposition to SB 641/HB 1355, which would require certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for hearing aids for children if fitted not only by licensed audiologists but also by licensed hearing aid dispensers. Audiologists are the only professionals who have the level of specialized education and training necessary to fit hearing aids for children, implementing best practices for child-appropriate evaluation and fitting while ensuring maximum device benefit. For these reasons, the Maryland Speech Language Hearing Association opposes Senate Bill 641.

Thank you,

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