

My name is Eli Schwartz.

I am the chair of Nevada Commission for Persons who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing and member of the Deaf/HH Hearing Equity Alliance.

First of all, I would like to say thank you for creating a hearing aid program for children under 13 for the D/HH community during the 80th session. This was a great step to ensuring children have access to hearing aids during a critical time in their development. Hearing aids are not covered by many insurances and when they are there is often a high deductible. Additionally, there is a lot more to the cost than just the hearing aid, including ear molds and batteries. To date, no hearing aid have been given out due to the complexity of the eligibility requirements. This is due to the complex nature of obtaining hearing aids and multiple restrictions in SB203. I am here today to ask the committee to refine the language set forth in SB203, particularly related to insurance requirements and to be inclusive of ear molds and batteries as part of the program. The Commission will submit a complete recommendation of edits by July 24th. Thank you for your time.

Thank you

Eli Schwartz