

Submitted on Fri, 02/11/2022 - 14:33

Name

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Affiliation, if applicable

State of Vermont

Town/City

Waterbury

Topic

Other

Comment

Hearings Aids Coverage: 12 years ago I experienced sudden extreme hearing loss and needed to purchase hearing aids. They were uncovered by insurance despite my husband and I being fully covered by our State of Vermont employee health plan. Because of the severity of hearing loss, I needed an expensive pair of hearings aids that had to be custom made and fit.

The cost of the hearing aids wiped out our savings, which we had been building to purchase a home. Despite earning 521% above the federal poverty level, we have struggled to afford the hearing aids, which have been replaced since then due to age. We can put them on an high interest rate credit card. We have not been able to rebuild our savings and are still renters.

I'm wracked with guilt that my hearing loss destroyed our financial future. I experience a great deal of anxiety and fear that I will lose my hearing aids, costing my husband and I thousands of dollars out of pocket. Insurance for the hearing aids requires an expensive rider that does not replace in many circumstances.

Please approve these expensive but crucial medical aids to be covered under the benchmark plans for Vermonters. Even a small percentage of the cost would benefit people struggling with the other barriers associated with hearing impairment.

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Yes