

Submitted on Fri, 02/25/2022 - 07:50

**Name**

Dylan Taylor

**Town/City**

Middlebury, VT

**Topic**

Other

**Comment**

I am submitting this comment for the ongoing Essential Health Benefits discussion.

My name is Dylan Taylor, and I am a hard-of-hearing college student residing in Middlebury, Vermont. I would like to voice my ardent support of including hearing aid coverage under EHBs.

Hard-of-hearing children, who depend on both spontaneous verbal interaction and consistent sensory inputs to develop language capabilities, simply require access to hearing devices. Indeed, early intervention substantially improves language outcomes, and the child's language uptake depends on how early and how thoroughly they receive care. That, in turn, depends on accessibility to hearing aids.

I was once this child: I received hearing aids at ten weeks old, and I could learn English because of them. My hearing aids have enabled nearly all of my academic advancements and accomplishments, and I cannot express how much they have improved my quality of life.

I sincerely hope that the Green Mountain Care Board includes hearing coverage under EHBs. This would substantially increase the quality of life and outcomes for thousands of Vermonters, and I urge you to extend hearing coverage to as extensive a degree as possible.

**Your public comment will be shared with the Board. To promote transparency, the Board sometimes posts public comments on its website. Are you okay with the Board posting your comment? If no, your comment will be sent to the Board but not posted.**

Yes