

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45
BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF
3 INSURANCE CONSULT WITH INSURANCE INDUSTRY LEADERS TO DETERMINE HOW TO
4 MAKE MEDICALLY NECESSARY HEARING DEVICES AND RELATED SERVICES AND SUP-
5 PLIES AVAILABLE TO IDAHO CHILDREN NOT CURRENTLY COVERED BY MEDICAID.

6 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 WHEREAS, the ability to hear can be critical to a child's brain develop-
8 ment and can strongly affect educational progress; and

9 WHEREAS, more than 1,000 Idaho children are fully deaf, partially deaf
10 or hard of hearing; and

11 WHEREAS, many children who are deaf or hard of hearing could experience
12 substantial improvement in their hearing with hearing aids, bone-anchored
13 hearing aids or cochlear implants; and

14 WHEREAS, a child's inability to obtain these devices is not only detri-
15 mental to the child's success but also costly to Idaho schools, which must
16 supply special programming to support the learning needs of children who are
17 deaf or hard of hearing; and

18 WHEREAS, while Medicaid covers these devices, families who do not qual-
19 ify for Medicaid are frequently unable to pay for the devices and related
20 services and supplies when insurance declines to cover them; and

21 WHEREAS, Idaho's administrative rules currently permit insurance com-
22 panies to deny coverage for hearing devices and related services and sup-
23 plies in many instances when the devices have been deemed medically neces-
24 sary by a health care provider; and

25 WHEREAS, a change in the administrative rules and in the practice of
26 many insurance companies could make necessary hearing devices and related
27 services and supplies more available to the Idaho children who need them and
28 who are otherwise covered under private insurance plans.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
30 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
31 the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature requests that the De-
32 partment of Insurance consult with leaders in the insurance industry to de-
33 termine how to make medically necessary hearing devices and related services
34 and supplies available to Idaho children who are not currently covered by
35 Medicaid.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that the Depart-
37 ment of Insurance collect data and ascertain the costs for including this
38 benefit in private insurance plans and, further, that the Department deter-
39 mine any impact on the Idaho general fund for the addition of this benefit.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that the Depart-
41 ment of Insurance and leaders in the insurance industry report their find-
42 ings and recommendations, if any, to the First Regular Session of the Sixty-
43 fifth Idaho Legislature.