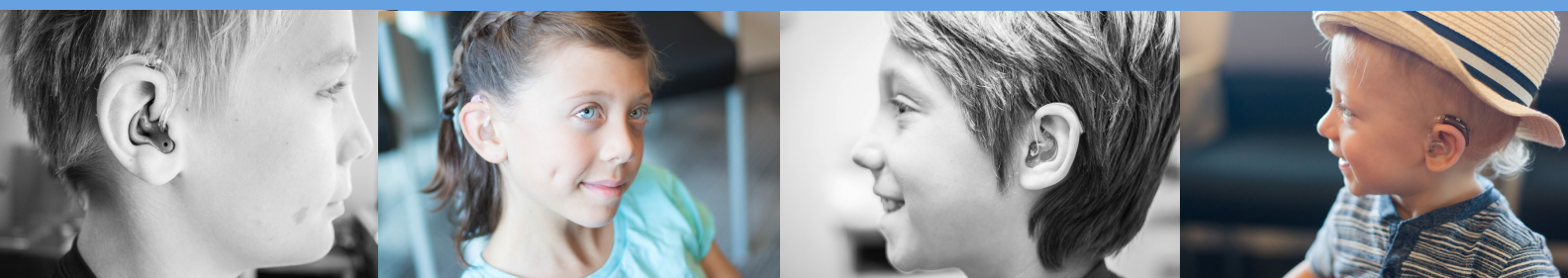


LET UTAH CHILDREN HEAR

To encourage and support access to quality hearing healthcare including state-of-the-art hearing technology for all children in Utah who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.



PROVIDING HEARING TO CHILDREN IS COST EFFECTIVE

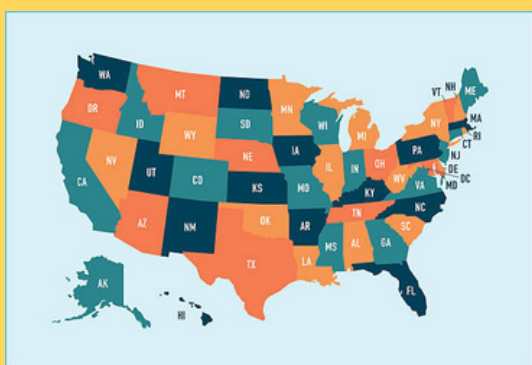
100

are assessed for and diagnosed as Deaf or Hard of Hearing every year in the state of Utah. Many more are identified at older ages.

NEWBORNS



24 OTHER STATES



have already passed similar legislation while several more states are currently working on passing legislation.

10%

of parents report insurance coverage for hearing aids for their child.

INSURANCE COVERAGE



COST EFFECTIVE

FOR UTAHNS



to cover hearing aids, bone conduction hearing devices, microphone systems, and habilitative services.

CHANGE A KID'S WORLD

Email us at letutahchildrenhear@gmail.com

Call us at (435)764-4074

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The Need

Speech, language, social and cognitive development of children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing is likely to be impaired by their hearing loss. However, access to hearing aids and intervention services improve outcomes dramatically.

Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing *can* learn to hear, speak and learn at a commensurate rate with their hearing peers when provided with appropriate intervention.

The Facts

Utah spear-headed universal newborn hearing screenings by mandating screenings in 1998. However, children identified early do not have access to hearing devices and habilitation services through insurance in order to complete the next vital steps in early intervention.

Approximately 50,000 babies are born in Utah every year. 100 of those babies will be diagnosed with a significant permanent hearing loss. About 40% of those children are covered by Medicaid.

The Concern

Under Utah code 31A-22-610, insurance companies are required to include coverage for care and treatments of medically diagnosed congenital defects. Childhood hearing loss is a congenital defect in most cases. Insurance companies are currently not covering treatments.

Currently, the state funds the Children's Hearing Aid Program which only provides a single pair of hearing aids for children age 0-6. This program is underserving children with hearing loss in the state.

The Cost

A pair of hearing aids can cost up to \$6,000 and must be replaced every 3-5 years. Since hearing loss can be hereditary, some families have multiple children with hearing loss needs. Many families cannot afford to provide the necessary habilitative treatments.

Providing hearing aids to children with hearing loss will reduce the costs borne by the state, including an estimated \$420,000 in special education, and much more in social welfare programs. Lifetime cost estimates of insufficiently treated hearing loss can total approximately \$1 Million.



CHANGE A KID'S WORLD

