

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Daniel Liparini <dliparini52@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 6:46 PM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** HB 7197 Insurance for Hearing Aids

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is Daniel Liparini and I am writing in support of the above bill which would increase the coverage for hearing aids from \$1500 to \$2000, per ear, every three years. Roughly 20% of Rhode Islanders suffer from hearing loss. And yet due to a number of reasons, of which cost is a major one, only about 20% of them use hearing aids. This results in a type of isolation for the hard of hearing that many of their friends might not understand. This type of isolation can result in a number of health issues that could be more costly than quality hearing aids.

While you can find a number of hearing aids priced below \$1000, the quality and effectiveness are just not the same as the higher quality and more expensive types. I play in a Senior softball league (50 years old and older) where a large number of my fellow players (probably well in excess of 20%) should be wearing hearing aids for safety reasons (avoiding collisions), but few do. The less expensive ones don't stay in place well and they don't work as well in the wind or when running. And some people are just sensitive about wearing very visible hearing aids.

Seniors want to stay active whether playing sports, running, biking or boating, and restrictive hearing can be very hazardous and socially inhibiting.

Please join me in supporting this bill and enabling our fellow citizens to stay active and social.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Liparini  
30 Fletcher Road  
North Kingstown  
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