



# State of Rhode Island COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

180 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903 – Tel. 401-222-2661

---

## TESTIMONY

BILL NO.: 2024 H 7197  
BILL TITLE: An Act Relating to Insurance –  
Accident And Sickness Insurance Policies  
PRIMARY SPONSOR: Representative McEntee  
COMMITTEE: House Health & Human Services

*The Rhode Island Commission for Human Rights (“Commission”) supports this bill.*

The Commission is the state’s primary antidiscrimination law enforcement agency charged with investigating allegations of discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, credit and delivery of services. Among the laws over which the Commission has jurisdiction is Title 42, Chapter 87 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities Act, and Title 40, Chapter 9.1, the Equal Rights to Public Facilities Act.

This bill seeks to amend relevant state laws to increase insurance coverage for hearing aids and to delete those provisions in state law which currently make the amount of coverage contingent upon the age of the recipient. This bill increases the opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals to more fully and independently participate in society, including the workplace.

Because this bill seeks to foster greater independence and inclusion of those with hearing impairments, the Commission urges its passage.

**Commission contact: Michael D. Évora, Executive Director, 222.7561**

---