

STATE SENATOR • TUPAC A. HUNTER • 5TH DISTRICT

Hunter Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jul 18, 2008

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Senator Hunter Introduces Legislation to Provide Coverage for Costs of Hearing Aids

Legislation would offer coverage for those with hearing impairments

LANSING, Mich. — State Senator Tupac A. Hunter (D-Detroit) introduced a two-bill package of legislation yesterday to provide insurance coverage for audiological screening, diagnosis, treatment and costs of hearing aids for individuals who suffer from hearing loss.

“More than 37.2 million Americans suffer from hearing impairments that affect their everyday lives, and this number will only increase as baby boomers get older,” said Sen. Hunter. “Considering the high costs of hearing impediment screening, diagnosis and treatment, many individuals are unable to afford these necessary services. My bills will help cover these high costs, giving those who are hearing impaired the opportunity to treat their hearing loss.”

Senate Bills 1447 and 1448 will ensure all health care organizations in Michigan provide coverage for those who are certified as deaf or severely hearing impaired by a licensed physician or audiologist.

Hearing impairment is most common among senior citizens, where hearing loss is the third most prevalent, yet treatable disabling condition. However, thirty-three babies are born every day with hearing loss, making it the number one birth defect in America.

“Hearing loss can affect anyone from one day old to a hundred years old,” said Hunter. “However, with the proper screening and diagnosis, children can greatly benefit from early detection and intervention, and we should help cover those services.”

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