

# Do Hearing Aid Mandates go Far Enough?

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Hands & Voices**

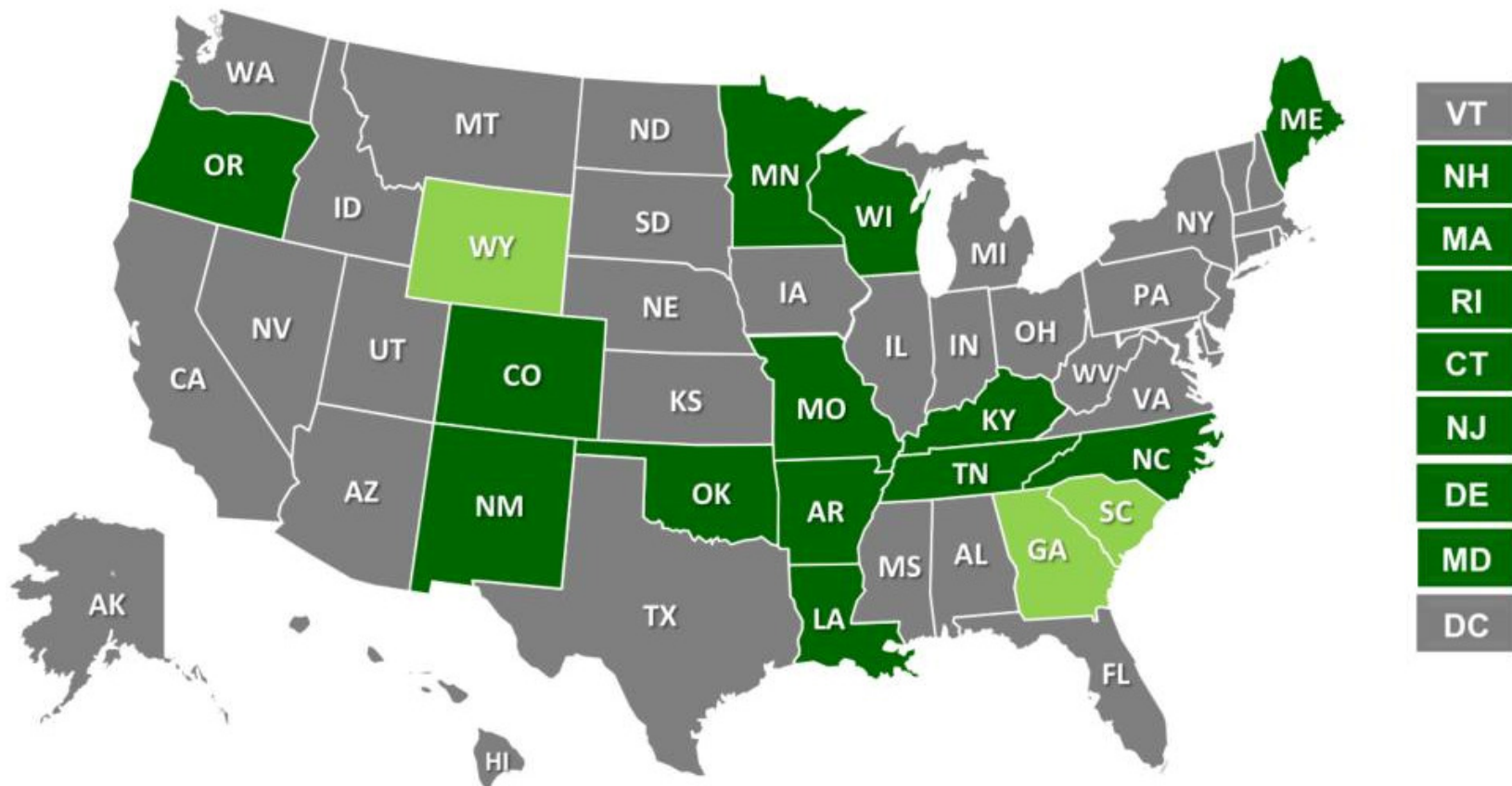


# So many stories to tell...

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# 30 States to GO GREEN



# [www.infanthearing.org/legislation/hearingaid.html](http://www.infanthearing.org/legislation/hearingaid.html)



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the NCHAM website. The address bar shows the URL [www.infanthearing.org/legislation/hearingaid.html](http://www.infanthearing.org/legislation/hearingaid.html). The page features a header with the NCHAM logo (National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management, Utah State University) and a search bar. A navigation menu includes links for Home, Components, Resources, States, Legislation, and About Us. The main content area is titled "Hearing Aid Legislation" and includes a sidebar with "EHDI Legislation" links, a list of "On This Page" items, and a section for "Hearing Aids for Children" with a quote. A photograph of a child's ear is visible on the right side of the page. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock indicating 9:23 PM on 4/14/2012.

NCHAM: Hearing Aid Leg x

www.infanthearing.org/legislation/hearingaid.html

Search infanthearing.org

Google™ Site Search Search

Home Components Resources States Legislation About Us

Last Updated: 8/27/12

**EHDI Legislation**

- Federal Legislation
- State Legislation, Rules, & Regulations
- Legislative Summaries
  - By State: Table | Text
  - By Provisions
- Hearing Aid Legislation

**Hearing Aid Legislation**

**On This Page:**

- [Hearing Aids for Children](#)
- [Enacted Hearing Aid Legislation](#)
- [State Insurance Departments](#)

**Hearing Aids for Children**

"A child's ability to hear should not be determined based on family income. It should be viewed as a fundamental right to the citizens of our state, especially when we have a mandated hearing screening program. To diagnose deafness and then fail to provide

www.infanthearing.org/about/

9:23 PM 4/14/2012

# What Worked in the Latest States

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- **North Carolina** added state employee insurance plan in from the start!
- Coverage to age 22; 2500 per ear every x years
  - Broad support from diverse groups
  - Getting the kids themselves to tell their stories
  - Selling factor: low incidence
- **New Hampshire**
- 1500 every 60 months
- No age restriction.



# News from Indiana

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## House Bill 1139



- ❑ prevents non-licensed people from selling, leasing, or renting hearing aids
- ❑ Study # of children who are D/hh and coverage estimates
- ❑ Estimated cost for a state program

# A Look at the Gaps

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- “Aetna is our insurance company, but they say they don’t have to follow the mandate.”
- **“My husband works for the US Forest Service – they are an ERISA plan.”**
- “My daughter could use a Cochlear Softband (or Oticon Ponto Pro or similar device) but Medicaid won’t pay for it.”
- “The clinic says I have a \$6,000 deductible to cover first.”

# What is the Effect of Obamacare?

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# Consequences

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- ❑ Delayed amplification
- ❑ Debt : **potentially \$6,000 pair**  
**Replaced 3-5 years. Total?**
- ❑ Inappropriate amplification

# What Parents Need to Grow As Advocates

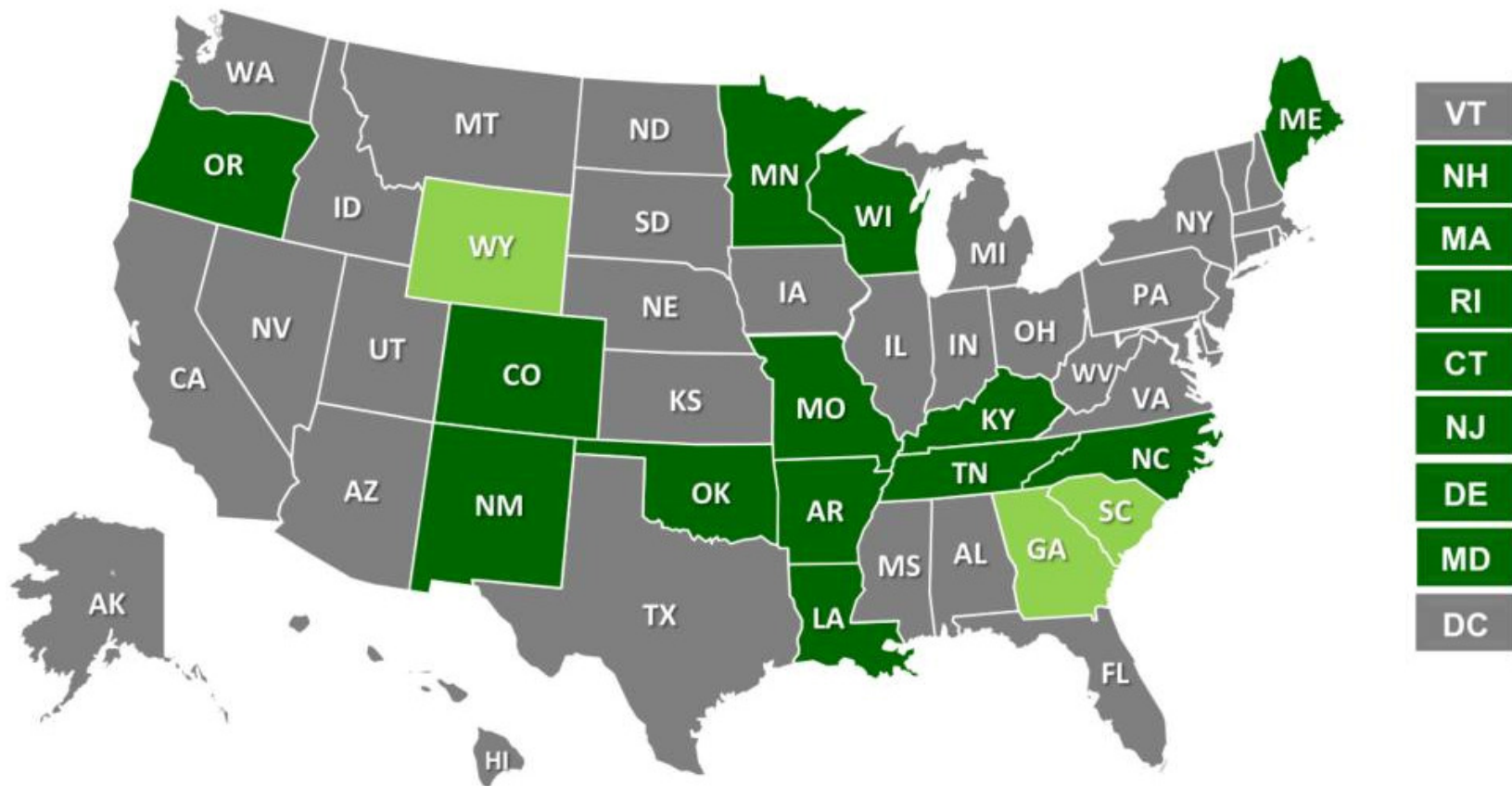
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- EI team (and Audiologist) with knowledge about the basic systems we have to navigate (health, education, insurance, etc.) and how to impact those systems.
- An audiologist who can help families articulate the needs of their child out in the real world.
- *Funding assistance information*
- *Hearing aid loaner banks*
- Connection to other parents
- Integrated perspectives:
  - Medical; deaf/hh adults; educational

A chance to grow our advocacy skills

# What if we passed a Federal law?

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# IDEA Assistive Technology Requirements

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## 20 U.S.C. 1400(c)(5)(H)

*Congress finds the following...Almost 30 years of research and experience has demonstrated that the education of children with disabilities can be made more effective by:*

*(H) Supporting the development and use of technology, including assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, **to maximize accessibility** for children with disabilities.*

# IDEA: Assistive Technology

34CFR 300.105 (a)(2)

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On a **case-by-case** basis, the use of school-purchased assistive technology devices in a child's home or in other settings is required if the child's IEP team determines that the child needs access to those devices in order to receive FAPE ) (*or IFSP team*)





# Eye on the Prize: Organize

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**Let America Hear -  
State Organizers  
Facebook Page**

**Kelly Jenkins**

[www.letgeorgiahear.org](http://www.letgeorgiahear.org)



# Colorado Hands & Voices Resources

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**[www.cohandsandvoices.org](http://www.cohandsandvoices.org)**  
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