



2025 South Dakota Legislature

House Bill 1233

Introduced by: **Representative** Novstrup

1 **An Act to provide hearing aids to children and make an appropriation therefor.**

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 **Section 1. That § 49-31-50 be AMENDED:**

4 **49-31-50.** There is created in the state treasury the telecommunication fund for
 5 the deaf and the telecommunication fund for other disabilities for the deposit and
 6 disbursement of money collected pursuant to ~~the provisions of §§ 49-31-49 and 49-31-~~
 7 ~~51. There is hereby continuously appropriated the sum of two hundred thousand dollars~~
 8 ~~(\$200,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary,~~ \$500,000 each year from the
 9 telecommunication fund for the deaf to the Department of Human Services to provide one
 10 or two cochlear implants to any child who suffers from severe to profound hearing loss
 11 and hearing aids for any child as recommend by a certified hearing audiologist. The child
 12 ~~shall must~~ be less than twenty-one years of age at the time of the implant or receipt of
 13 the hearing aids.

14 **Section 2. That § 49-31-50.1 be AMENDED:**

15 **49-31-50.1.** ~~Funds~~Moneys appropriated pursuant to § 49-31-50 may only be used
 16 for:
 17 (1) The costs of providing a cochlear implant or hearing aids to a child who is not
 18 covered under a plan of health insurance or medicaid; or
 19 (2) Any portion of the costs of providing a cochlear implant or hearing aids to a child
 20 ~~that is~~ not paid by any plan of health insurance covering the child, but only for
 21 those amounts payable by the covered person under the plan's deductible and
 22 coinsurance provisions.