

September 26, 2012

Dear Nevada Department of Health Insurance,

As a therapist and representative of the Nevada Speech Language Hearing Association, I am writing to request that you take action to ensure that speech, language and hearing services are included in insurance plans as essential health benefits. This request is in conjunction with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

There are many documented instances in which speech, language, and hearing services are absolutely crucial in the lives of our citizens. From building the necessary life and academic skills in children with developmental delays, to helping recover executive function for brain-injured individuals who have served in our Armed Forces.

In the absence of needed treatment, beneficiaries may suffer life-long deficits, diminished quality of life, and may ultimately require more health care services than if the services were provided when identified. I urge you to carefully consider all health plan options recommended to you from the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange Board. Your support of speech, language and hearing services will safeguard Nevadans against being denied crucial coverage of much needed therapy services.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this important matter.

For questions or more information, please feel free to contact me by phone 775-997-8337 or email laculbert@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Lindsay A. Culbert, M.S., CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist
President, Nevada Speech Language Hearing Association