

I have been following the recommendations to the DOI for proposed insurance coverage plans to be adopted by the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange. As a Speech-Language Pathologist, it is of great concern to me that two of the three proposed plans do not cover speech therapy services. As a practitioner working with infants and toddlers birth to age three, I see first hand and in the families' homes how communication and feeding therapy services can dramatically impact a child's health and development. If these services are not provided (which will be very likely to occur if insurance does not cover the therapy), these children are at a much higher risk of long-term learning disabilities that would require special education services when they enter the school system. Research has shown again and again that early intervention saves money in the long run. I urge you to look at the long-term picture and vote for the most fiscally responsible package, Plan D. Paying for communication services in the critical early years of development will save money in the end.

Thank you,
Leigh McOmber
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