

**SENATE . . . . . No. 469**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act relative to providing health insurance coverage for cochlear implants in children..

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 9A of chapter 118E of the General Laws, as most recently amended  
2 by section 17, chapter 324 of the Acts of 2006, is hereby amended by adding the following  
3 subsection:-

4 (16) Medical benefits provided under this section shall include coverage for operation to  
5 implant cochlear implants for children and post treatment services.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
7 section 108J the following section:-

8 Section 108K. An individual policy of accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to  
9 section 108 or group policy accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to section 110 shall  
10 provide coverage for operations to implant cochlear implants in children and for post surgery  
11 services.

12 SECTION 3. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
13 section 8AA the following section:-

14           Section 8BB. Any contract, except contracts providing supplemental coverage to  
15    medicare or other governmental programs, between a subscriber and the corporation under an  
16    individual or group hospital service plan which shall be delivered or issued or renewed in the  
17    commonwealth shall provide, as a basic benefit to all individual subscribers and members within  
18    the commonwealth and to all group members having a principal place of employment within the  
19    commonwealth, for expense for operation to implant cochlear implants in children and for post  
20    surgery services.

21           SECTION 4. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
22    section 4AA the following section:-

23           Section 4BB. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service  
24    agreement that shall be delivered, issued or renewed in the commonwealth shall provide as  
25    benefits to all individual subscribers within the commonwealth an all persons included in section  
26    4C, coverage for operations implanting cochlear implants in children and for post surgery  
27    services.

28           SECTION 5. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
29    section 4S the following section:

30           Section 4T. Any health maintenance contract shall provide coverage for operation to  
31    implant cochlear implants in children and for post surgery services.