Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (HR.1916, S.754)

Please cosponsor and support the bipartisan, bicameral Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA), which was reintroduced by Senate leads, Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA), and House leads, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (D-CA-18) and Congressman Drew Ferguson (R-GA-3), for the 117th Congress.

In the 116th Congress, this bill gained strong bipartisan support from 53 U.S. Senate cosponsors, 313 U.S. House cosponsors and passed the House Energy & Commerce Committee by voice vote. ELSA is endorsed by a broad coalition of national health care professional and patient advocacy organizations.

**Summary:** This bipartisan legislation would require all private group and individual health plans to cover medically necessary items and services that are needed to repair congenital anomalies; stipulates that such coverage includes services and procedures that functionally repair or restore any missing or abnormal body part that is medically necessary to achieve normal body function or appearance; and clarifies the inclusion of adjunctive dental, orthodontic, or prosthodontic support.

**Background:** About four percent of children in the U.S. are born with congenital anomalies that affect the way they look, develop, or function. Many born with congenital anomalies suffer from severe oral defects (such as cleft lip or palate, hypodontia, enamel hypoplasia), skeletal defects (such as craniosynostosis), vision defects (such as congenital cataracts or aphakia), hearing defects (such as microtia), or other loss of bodily functions. Individuals who do not receive timely, continuous care for their congenital anomalies face long-term physical and psychological injuries.

**Problem:** Most group and individual health plans include coverages for congenital anomalies, and all 50 states require health insurers to provide coverage for the treatment of congenital anomalies. Despite this, health plans systematically and routinely deny or delay claims and appeals for treatment of congenital anomalies by wrongfully categorizing certain treatments or body parts as cosmetic or not medically necessary. This is a common practice that leaves families with the burden of paying 100% of the cost for their child’s medically necessary treatments, despite maintaining private health plans.

**Solution:** The Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act will ensure that group and individual health plans do not deny or delay medically necessary treatments of congenital anomalies, therefore improving the health of countless Americans.

**Contact Information:** To cosponsor the Senate bill, please contact Sen. Baldwin’s office or Sen. Ernst’s office. To cosponsor the House bill, please contact Rep. Eshoo’s office or Rep. Ferguson’s office.
List of Professional and Patient Organizations Supporting ELSA
(Hyperlinks are active when viewed on computer)

Academy of General Dentistry
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
American Association of Orthodontists
American Association of Women Dentists
American Behcet’s Disease Association
American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association
American College of Prosthodontists
American College of Surgeons
American Dental Association
American Prosthodontic Society
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists
American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
Barth Syndrome Foundation
Bridge the Gap - SYNGAP Education and Research Foundation
CCD Smiles
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Colorado Rare
Costello Syndrome Family Network
Crane Dental Laboratory
Dermatology Nurses’ Association
Derma Care Access Network
Ear Community, Inc.
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
Face-To-Face Colorado
FACES: The National Craniofacial Association
FD/MAS Alliance
Foundation for Ichthyosis and Related Skin Types, Inc. (FIRST)
Genetic Alliance
Georgia Prosthodontics
Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare
International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation
Lawrence C. Wright Craniofacial Center at John R. Oishei Children’s Hospital
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association
Lymphedema Advocacy Group
M-CM Network
March of Dimes
Moebius Syndrome Foundation
myFace
National Association of Dental Laboratories
National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasias
National Organization for Rare Disorders
Noah's Hope – Hope4Bridget
Operation Smile
Pathways for Rare and Orphan Studies
Project Accessible Oral Health
Rare & Undiagnosed Network
rareLife solutions
Smile Train
Soft Bones: The US Hypophosphatasia Foundation
SunnyStrong
The APS Type 1 Foundation Inc.
The Marfan Foundation
The XLH Network, Inc.
The Sturge-Weber Foundation
Usher 1F Collaborative
Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners
Wisconsin Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Association (WSHA)