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NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR  
ECTODERMAL DYSPLASIAS



### ***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 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.

In the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, this bill gained strong bipartisan support from over 40 U.S. Senate cosponsors, 317 U.S. House cosponsors and passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on April 4, 2022 with a vote of 310 – 110. ELSA is endorsed by a broad coalition of 70+ 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 S.754, please contact Sen. Baldwin's office and/or Sen. Ernst'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 for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research](#)

[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](#)

[Association of Dental Support Organizations](#)

[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](#)

[Ozark Prosthodontics](#)

[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 \(WSHA\)](#)