

September 5, 2018

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
U.S. Senate  
407 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joni Ernst  
U.S. Senate  
111 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Baldwin and Ernst:

The undersigned organizations thank you for introducing **S 3369, the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act**. This important legislation will address the problem of insurance denials for procedures that functionally repair or restore any body part that is medically necessary to achieve normal body functioning or appearance, including adjunctive dental, orthodontic or prosthodontic support from birth until the medical or surgical treatment of the defect or anomaly has been completed.

Patients who do not have their craniofacial and other anomalies treated face long-term physical and psychological injuries. Examples of these abnormalities include cleft lip, skeletal and maxillofacial deformities, hypodontia (absence of teeth), skin lesions, vascular anomalies, malformations of the ear, hand, or foot, and other profound craniofacial deformities. Despite the ability of reconstructive surgical efforts to improve the outlook for these patients, many times insurance companies claim that these services are “cosmetic” in nature, especially subsequent stage surgeries, leaving families the burden of how to pay for treatment. A family trying to improve their loved one’s life should not have to face the added trauma of battling their insurance company.

Our groups are committed to helping patients born with facial and other deformities. Surgical procedures to correct these deformities exist and allow these patients to grow up and live their lives as any other person would, free from the physical limitations associated with these conditions, and free from the psychological injuries people with similar untreated deformities so often encounter. These procedures are reconstructive in nature, performed to correct abnormal structures of the body, and not cosmetic, as so many insurance companies claim.

Through your support, we can help patients suffering from deformities and disfigurement to receive the treatment they need.

Again, the undersigned organizations thank you for your continued support of the S 3369. We are ready to work with you to ensure swift passage of this important legislation. With your leadership, we will succeed and help patients across America.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Association of Orthodontists  
American Association of Women Dentists  
American College of Prosthodontists  
American Dental Association  
American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists