

September 5, 2018

The Honorable Collin Peterson
U.S. House of Representatives
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James McGovern
U.S. House of Representatives
438 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Young
U.S. House of Representatives
240 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Yoder
U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Faso
U.S. House of Representatives
1616 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Peterson, Young, Faso, McGovern and Yoder:

The undersigned organizations thank you for introducing **HR 6689, 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 HR 6689. 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