

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 issue of insurance denials for procedures that functionally repair or restore any body part that is medically necessary to achieve normal body functioning or appearance.

Patients who do not have their craniofacial and other anomalies treated face long-term physical and psychological issues. 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 physical and psychologic outcomes for these patients, many times insurance companies claim these services are “cosmetic” in nature, especially subsequent-stage surgeries, leaving families to face the burden of how to pay for treatments. A family trying to improve its loved one’s life should not have to face the added trauma of battling an 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 as any other person would – free from physical limitations associated with these conditions and free from psychological injuries people with similar untreated deformities often encounter. These procedures are reconstructive in nature, performed to correct abnormal structures of the body, and are not cosmetic, as so many insurance companies claim.

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

Again, the undersigned organizations thank you for your support of 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,

American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American College of Surgeons  
American Dental Association  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons