



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
PLASTIC SURGEONS®



THE PLASTIC SURGERY  
FOUNDATION®

Executive Office

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March 10, 2020

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess, MD  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: **Support for the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (H.R. 1379)**

Dear Chairwoman Eshoo and Ranking Member Burgess:

We are writing on behalf of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) and state and regional plastic surgery societies in support of Reps. Collin Peterson's (D-MN-07) and Denver Riggleman's (R-VA-05) legislation, the *Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act*. This important policy will help increase patients' coverage for craniofacial and other birth anomalies. Collectively, our societies, represent more than 7,000 plastic surgeons and 93 percent of all board-certified plastic surgeons in the United States. Our mission is to advance quality care for plastic surgery patients and promote public policy that protects patient safety.

All children with a congenital anomaly or birth defect or disorder who do not receive treatment at an early age face long-term physical and psychological injuries. Early intervention and providing them a full course of treatment can have truly life-altering outcomes. This is true for all diseases caused by congenital anomalies.

Despite the ability of reconstructive surgical efforts to improve the outlook for these children, insurers often claim that these services are "cosmetic" in nature, especially subsequent stage surgeries. However, the American Medical Association defines surgery performed on abnormal structures of the body caused by congenital defects or developmental abnormalities as reconstructive, not cosmetic. Furthermore, insurers frequently overlook the dental and orthodontic needs of these patients – which are essential to their achieving normal form and function – and mislead affected patients and the public when deeming these procedures cosmetic.

This important legislation will address the problem of insurance denials for reconstructive surgery and necessary adjunctive care for children suffering from congenital or development deformities. With your leadership, we can help children suffering from deformities and disfigurement receive coverage for the treatment they need.

For the reasons outlined above, we thank you for your consideration of this legislation and encourage the Committee to pass this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Hermes,

Director of Advocacy and Government Relations, at [phermes@plasticsurgery.org](mailto:phermes@plasticsurgery.org) or (847) 228-3331 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

American Society of Plastic Surgeons

Arizona Society of Plastic Surgeons

California Society of Plastic Surgeons

Florida Society of Plastic Surgeons

New Jersey Society of Plastic Surgeons

New York Regional Society of Plastic Surgeons

New York State Society of Plastic Surgeons

Robert H. Ivy Pennsylvania Plastic Surgery Society

Washington Society of Plastic Surgeons

Cc: Members of the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee