



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS®



THE PLASTIC SURGERY
FOUNDATION®

Executive Office

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January 27, 2020

The Honorable Frederica Wilson
House Education and Labor Committee
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Walberg
House Education and Labor Committee
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairwoman Wilson and Ranking Member Walberg:

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.

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. Despite the ability of reconstructive surgical efforts to improve the outlook for these children, many 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 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 Education and Labor Committee Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee