

Jan. 27, 2020

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
Chair, Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions
Subcommittee
House Committee on Education and Labor
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Ranking Member, Health, Employment, Labor,
and Pensions Subcommittee's Joint Hearing on "America's Maternal and Infant Health Crisis" hearing.

This legislation – with more than 260 bipartisan cosponsors – will eliminate the existing burdens that prevent access to necessary care for children with congenital craniofacial anomalies, such as cleft lip and palate, facial paralysis, microtia, hypodontia, and craniosynostosis. The bill will ensure all group and individual health plans cover medically necessary dental procedures such as orthodontic or prosthodontic support. The bill would exclude coverage for cosmetic procedures or surgery on non-

The bill also includes provisions for the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) to ensure necessary to assess and oversee the patient's treatment and development of several years.

Most private health plans provide coverage for the surgical treatment of congenital craniofacial anomalies. However, many states require insurers to provide coverage of any health services for children with birth defects. Despite this, health plans often deny claims and appeal procedures – like orthodontia and dental implants – or other procedures that are necessary for the overall success of treatment, claiming these services are cosmetic.

Severe dental anomalies are a common symptom of many craniofacial anomalies that require serious medical treatment that is outside the scope of procedure. When private health plans deny coverage, patients are forced to incur significant out-of-pocket costs on medical care related to their disorder during their lifetime. When private health plans deny reconstructive surgery, families many times end up turning to Medicaid or other public programs for coverage.

The Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act would address these coverage denials and ensure that all patients with

