

March 18, 2021

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
U.S. Senate  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
272 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joni Ernst  
U.S. Senate  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Drew Ferguson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1032 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Baldwin and Ernst and Representative Eshoo and Ferguson:

On behalf of the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) and its 40,000 members, I would like to thank you for your efforts to correct inequities in health insurance coverage for the treatment of congenital anomalies by introducing the *Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA)* (H.R.1916/S.754). We strongly support ELSA and its provisions to require health insurers, including ERISA plans, to cover medically necessary services, including dental treatment, for patients with congenital anomalies.

Patients with congenital craniofacial anomalies, such as cleft lip and palate, continue to face delays and denials in coverage by their health plans. These patients are often unable to receive the treatment they need in a timely manner.

Despite the ability of reconstructive surgical efforts to improve the outlook for these patients, insurers often claim these services are "cosmetic" in nature, especially subsequent stage surgeries, leaving families with the burden of paying for treatment.

The provisions in ELSA will help us ensure patients suffering from deformities and disfigurement receive the treatment they need.

We look forward to continuing to work with you during this critical time to protect the health of our nation and stand ready to help advance ELSA in Congress. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Daniel J. Buksa, JD, Associate Executive Director of Public Affairs, by phone at (312) 440-4328 or via email at [daniel.buksa@agd.org](mailto:daniel.buksa@agd.org) to let us know how we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Bruce Cassis, D.D.S., MAGD  
President  
Academy of General Dentistry



Myron (Mike) Bromberg, D.D.S.  
Congressional Liaison  
Academy of General Dentistry