

May 21, 2018

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act

Dear Senator Cassidy:

As board certified plastic surgeons and constituents, we are writing to request that you join Senator Baldwin in sponsoring her legislation – the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act – concerning coverage of reconstructive surgical care for craniofacial anomalies. As plastic surgeons, we are committed to providing quality care for patients and promoting public policy that protects patient safety.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – which characterizes birth defects as “common, costly, and critical” – one in 33 babies in the United States is born with a congenital anomaly. Craniofacial anomalies can restrict a child’s ability to breathe, eat, and speak in a normal manner. Therefore, surgery to repair an anomaly – which is highly individualized – is intended to help a child obtain the ability to function and grow normally. Early intervention by a team of specialists, including plastic surgeons, pediatric dentists, orthodontists, and speech therapists, is necessary to assess and oversee a child’s treatment and development.

To a layperson, repair of a craniofacial defect may appear cosmetic in nature. However, reconstructive surgery is performed to treat structures of the body affected aesthetically or functionally by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors, or disease. It is generally done to improve function and ability, but may also be performed to achieve a more typical appearance of the affected structure. Health insurance companies that claim that these necessary corrective procedures are cosmetic are misleading and fail to serve affected patients.

As providers of surgical care in Louisiana, we are committed to helping those with a congenital defect achieve normal form and function. We believe that the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act will help all Americans who are in need of this coverage reach that goal. We thank you for your consideration, and respectfully request that you join Sen. Baldwin in championing this legislation.

Sincerely,

Holly Casey Wall, MD
*Immediate Past President, Louisiana Society of
Plastic Surgeons
Shreveport, LA*

Benjamin Boudreaux, MD
Mandeville, LA

Michael Friel, MD, FACS, FAAP
Jefferson, LA

Juan Jose Gilbert-Fernandez, MD
New Orleans, LA

John Lindsey, MD
Metairie, LA

Taylor Theunissen, MD
Baton Rouge, LA

Daniel Womac, MD
Marrero, LA

May 21, 2018

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

RE: Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act

Dear Senator Collins:

As board certified plastic surgeons and constituents, we are writing to request that you join Senator Baldwin in sponsoring her legislation – the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act – concerning coverage of reconstructive surgical care for craniofacial anomalies. As plastic surgeons, we are committed to providing quality care for patients and promoting public policy that protects patient safety.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – which characterizes birth defects as “common, costly, and critical” – one in 33 babies in the United States is born with a congenital anomaly. Craniofacial anomalies can restrict a child’s ability to breathe, eat, and speak in a normal manner. Therefore, surgery to repair an anomaly – which is highly individualized – is intended to help a child obtain the ability to function and grow normally. Early intervention by a team of specialists, including plastic surgeons, pediatric dentists, orthodontists, and speech therapists, is necessary to assess and oversee a child’s treatment and development.

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As providers of surgical care in Maine, we are committed to helping those with a congenital defect achieve normal form and function. We believe that the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act will help all Americans who are in need of this coverage reach that goal. We thank you for your consideration, and respectfully request that you join Sen. Baldwin in championing this legislation.

Sincerely,

Richard Kutz, MD, MPH, FACS
South Portland, ME

John McGill, MD
Bangor, ME

Arthur Turko, MD
South Portland, ME

Verne Weisberg, MD
Portland, ME

May 21, 2018

The Honorable Cory Gardner
United States Senate
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

RE: Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act

Dear Senator Gardner:

As board certified plastic surgeons and constituents, we are writing to request that you join Senator Baldwin in sponsoring her legislation – the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act – concerning coverage of reconstructive surgical care for craniofacial anomalies. As plastic surgeons, we are committed to providing quality care for patients and promoting public policy that protects patient safety.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – which characterizes birth defects as “common, costly, and critical” – one in 33 babies in the United States is born with a congenital anomaly. Craniofacial anomalies can restrict a child’s ability to breathe, eat, and speak in a normal manner. Therefore, surgery to repair an anomaly – which is highly individualized – is intended to help a child obtain the ability to function and grow normally. Early intervention by a team of specialists, including plastic surgeons, pediatric dentists, orthodontists, and speech therapists, is necessary to assess and oversee a child’s treatment and development.

To a layperson, repair of a craniofacial defect may appear cosmetic in nature. However, reconstructive surgery is performed to treat structures of the body affected aesthetically or functionally by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors, or disease. It is generally done to improve function and ability, but may also be performed to achieve a more typical appearance of the affected structure. Health insurance companies that claim that these necessary corrective procedures are cosmetic are misleading and fail to serve affected patients.

As providers of surgical care in Colorado, we are committed to helping those with a congenital defect achieve normal form and function. We believe that the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act will help all Americans who are in need of this coverage reach that goal. We thank you for your consideration, and respectfully request that you join Sen. Baldwin in championing this legislation.

Sincerely,

Joyce Aycock, MD
Aurora, CO

Laura Boschini, MD
Aurora, CO

William Brown, MD
Denver, CO

Jennifer Butterfield, MD
Glenwood Springs, CO

Diana Farnsworth, MD
Lafayette, CO

Brooke French, MD
Aurora, CO

Rebecca Glasser, MD
Grand Junction, CO

Richard Mouchantat, MD
Wheat Ridge, CO

Paul Zwiebel, MD
Highlands Ranch, CO

Gregory Liebscher, MD
Colorado Springs, CO

Thomas Narsete, MD
Denver, CO