



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS®



THE PLASTIC SURGERY
FOUNDATION®

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January 03, 2020

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Burgess
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairwoman Eshoo and Ranking Member Burgess:

I write on behalf of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) 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. ASPS is the largest association of plastic surgeons in the world, representing more than 7,000 members 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,

Lynn Jeffers, MD, MBA, FACS
President, American Society of Plastic Surgeons

Cc: Members, House Energy and Commerce Committee