



## American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

9700 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.  
Rosemont, IL 60018-5701

847-678-6200  
800-822-6637  
fax 847-678-6286

AAOMS.org

J. David Morrison, DMD  
President

Karin Wittich, CAE  
Executive Director

May 9, 2025

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
U.S. Senate  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joni Ernst  
U.S. Senate  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Neal Dunn, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
466 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kim Schrier, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1110 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Baldwin, Senator Ernst, Representative Dunn, and Representative Schrier:

On behalf of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), the professional association that represents more than 9,000 oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) in the United States, I wish to thank you for your committed leadership in reintroducing the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (S 1677/HR 3277).

As you are well aware, this important bill would help dental patients with congenital anomalies that impact the eyes, ears, teeth, mouth or jaw such as cleft lip and palate, skeletal and maxillofacial deformities, facial paralysis, microtia, hypodontia (absence of teeth) and craniosynostosis, afford medically necessary dental treatment for their condition, enabling them to lead full and productive lives.

Severe dental issues often accompany these types of congenital anomalies. While private health insurers cover initial procedures for these conditions, they often deny or delay subsequent procedures – which are the clinical standard of care – including dental-related procedures involving orthodontia and dental implants. by deeming them cosmetic or covered under dental plans. Dental plan coverage is inadequate compared to health plans. Consequently, patients frequently face significant out-of-pocket costs for necessary reconstructive dental care throughout their lifetime. Even in states that require health insurance coverage for congenital craniofacial anomalies, ERISA plans are exempt from those requirements, making federal legislation essential to ensure coverage for all patients.

OMSs are surgically and medically trained dental specialists. Our expertise in both surgical and dental aspects of the facial structure makes us uniquely qualified to manage complex deformities involving the bones and soft tissues of the head, face, mouth, teeth and jaw. As a

result, OMSs have direct, firsthand experience with the insurance barriers our patients regularly encounter. This experience has driven AAOMS's strong commitment to ELSA, and we are so excited to see the reintroduction of the bill this Congress.

AAOMS looks forward to working diligently with fellow provider and patient advocacy organizations to advance the bill through the 119th Congress. On behalf of AAOMS, thank you again for your leadership on this important issue. For questions or additional information, please contact Jeanne Tuerk, director of government affairs at 800-822-6637, ext. 4321 or [jtuerk@aaoms.org](mailto:jtuerk@aaoms.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. David Morrison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "J" and "M".

J. David Morrison, DMD  
President