

Congress Considering Insurance Rights for Craniofacial Patients: Make Yourself Heard

Representative Mike Ross of Arkansas recently introduced legislation in the US Congress to guarantee insurance coverage for craniofacial patients. This legislation (HR 4022) was proposed because insurance companies often label needed reconstructive care as “cosmetic” and deny coverage for this or other reasons. The Reconstructive Surgery Act of 2005 seeks to guarantee that insurance companies meet their obligations to cover medically necessary care.

The American Medical Association has developed clear and simple guidelines regarding the differences between cosmetic and reconstructive. The legislation proposed by Congressman Ross incorporates the AMA definitions. The legislation also is virtually identical to the language in federal law requiring coverage for reconstruction after mastectomies.

To make this proposal the law of the land, however, depends on support from citizens—and that’s easy to do. Just go to www.aica-advocates.blogspot.com/ scroll down the right side of the page, type in your zip code and you will have the information you need for contacting your senators and representative by email, by phone, or by postal mail. Your message to them should be simple and to the point: “Please support HR 4022, the Reconstructive Surgery Act of 2005. This legislation simply requires insurance companies to meet their obligations. It’s a matter of fairness.” That’s all you have to say. If you want to include some details about your personal situation, that’s even better—but keep it simple and to the point. Ask your friends, relatives, and neighbors, church groups, community organizations, school classes, bowling leagues, and anyone else you can think of to do the same.

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