

**Ensure that Children with Birth Defects
Receive the Medical Treatment they Need and Deserve**

**Contact your Elected Officials.
Urge them to Co-sponsor the
Children's Access to Reconstructive Evaluation and Surgeries (CARES) Act
H.R. 1339**

Every year in the United States about 120,000 babies are born suffering from birth defects. About 40,000 children require reconstructive surgery for their conditions, including cleft palate, cleft lip, malformations of the ear, hand, or foot, or for more profound craniofacial deformities.

The American Medical Association asserts that “the treatment of a minor child’s congenital or developmental deformity . . . should be covered by all insurers” and that the treatment should seek to “return the patient to a more normal appearance.”

However, evidence suggests that insurance companies increasingly deny or delay access to reconstructive surgery to children with birth defects.

Legislation has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that would require all group and individual health insurance coverage and all group health plans to provide coverage for surgery and other outpatient and inpatient medical treatments related to a minor child’s congenital or developmental deformity.