

August 2021

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce  
Committee  
1035 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: **Ally's Act H.R. 477/S. 41**

Dear Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers,

I am writing to encourage you to support **Ally's Act, H. 477**, which is a bipartisan, bicameral national level bill Sponsored by Congressman Joe Neguse (D-CO) and originally co-sponsored by Congressmen David McKinley (R-W.VA) and Mike Thompson (D-CA) and originally co-lead by Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.VA) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MASS). This legislation would help ensure that private insurance companies cover osseointegrated hearing devices (OIDs), including bone anchored hearing aids and cochlear implants, for children and adults birth to age 64. These hearing devices are medically necessary and yet are consistently denied coverage by private insurance companies, despite the critical and life-changing support these devices provide.

Ally's Act would help hundreds of thousands of children and adults gain access to life-changing treatment, allowing them to live the lives they dream, participate in the workplace and community and enjoy a high quality of life. When specific hearing is lost, these specialized hearing devices are often the only devices that can give people their lives back in addition to living safer and more confident lives.

These specialized hearing devices require implantation. These are not your traditional air conduction hearing aids that millions of individuals require with hearing loss. These hearing devices cost tens of thousands of dollars, rather than hundreds of dollars of more generic solutions that work for most people. These types of hearing devices are not available over the counter as they need to be programmed, fitted and activated by a medical professional. There is even a cost savings component here as well that would save school districts over \$110,000.00 per every child (from 1st grade through 12th) if those who needed it were aided with a Cochlear Implant.

This bill would ensure that private insurance companies are not denying coverage of these devices, nor discriminating against people who require the use of these essential hearing devices. Many children and adults are often denied coverage by private insurers that are compliant with the Affordable Care Act.

The cost is low, the benefit is high with profound positive impacts for those who would be covered by this Act. I hope you will give it your attention and support.

Sincerely,

Name:  
Address:  
E-mail:  
Phone: