

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1379

To amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2019

Mr. PETERSON (for himself, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mrs. AXNE, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. STIVERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Ensuring Lasting
3 Smiles Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. COVERAGE OF CONGENITAL ANOMALY OR BIRTH**
5 **DEFECT.**

6 (a) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT AMENDMENTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title XXVII of the Public
8 Health Service Act is amended by inserting after
9 section 2729 (42 U.S.C. 300gg–28), the following:

10 **“SEC. 2730. STANDARDS RELATING TO BENEFITS FOR CON-**
11 **GENITAL ANOMALY OR BIRTH DEFECT.**

12 **“(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR CARE AND RECONSTRUC-**
13 **TIVE TREATMENT.—**

14 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**A group health plan, and a
15 health insurance issuer offering group or individual
16 health insurance coverage, shall provide coverage for
17 outpatient and inpatient services related to the diag-
18 nosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth
19 defect.

20 **“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—**Coverage provided
21 under paragraph (1) shall include any service to
22 functionally improve, repair, or restore any body
23 part that is medically necessary to achieve normal
24 body functioning or appearance, as determined by
25 the treating physician (as defined in section 1861 of
26 the Social Security Act). Any coverage provided

1 under such paragraph may be subject to coverage
2 limits, such as pre-authorization or pre-certification,
3 as required by the plan or issuer that are no more
4 restrictive than the predominant treatment limita-
5 tions applied to substantially all medical and sur-
6 gical benefits covered by the plan (or coverage).

7 “(3) TREATMENT DEFINED.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
9 subparagraph (B), in this section, the term
10 ‘treatment’ includes patient and outpatient care
11 and services performed to improve or restore
12 body function (or performed to approximate a
13 normal appearance), due to congenital anomaly
14 or birth defect and shall include treatment to
15 any and all missing or abnormal body parts,
16 (including teeth, the oral cavity, and their asso-
17 ciated structures) that would otherwise be pro-
18 vided under the plan or coverage for any other
19 injury and sickness, including—

20 “(i) inpatient and outpatient care, re-
21 constructive services and procedures, and
22 complications thereof, including prosthetics
23 and appliances;

24 “(ii) adjunctive dental, orthodontic or
25 prosthodontic support from birth until the

1 medical or surgical treatment of the defect
2 or anomaly has been completed, including
3 ongoing or subsequent treatment required
4 to maintain function or approximate a nor-
5 mal appearance;

6 “(iii) procedures that do not materi-
7 ally restore or improve the function of the
8 body part being treated; and

9 “(iv) procedures for secondary condi-
10 tions and follow-up treatment.

11 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The term ‘treatment’
12 shall not include cosmetic surgery performed to
13 reshape normal structures of the body to im-
14 prove appearance or self-esteem.

15 “(b) NOTICE.—A group health plan under this part
16 shall comply with the notice requirement under section
17 714(b) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act
18 of 1974 with respect to the requirements of this section
19 as if such section applied to such plan.”.

20 (2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

21 (A) Section 2724(c) of the Public Health
22 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-23(c)) is amend-
23 ed by striking “section 2704” and inserting
24 “sections 2725 and 2729”.

1 (B) Section 2762(b)(2) of the Public
2 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-62(b)(2))
3 is amended by striking “section 2751” and in-
4 serting “sections 2729 and 2751”.

5 (b) ERISA AMENDMENTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart B of part 7 of sub-
7 title B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income
8 Security Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the
9 end the following:

10 **“SEC. 716. STANDARDS RELATING TO BENEFITS FOR CON-**
11 **GENITAL ANOMALY OR BIRTH DEFECT.**

12 “(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR RECONSTRUCTIVE TREAT-
13 MENT.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A group health plan, and a
15 health insurance issuer offering group or individual
16 health insurance coverage, shall provide coverage for
17 outpatient and inpatient services related to the diag-
18 nosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth
19 defect.

20 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Coverage provided
21 under paragraph (1) shall include any service to
22 functionally improve, repair, or restore any body
23 part that is medically necessary to achieve normal
24 body functioning or appearance, as determined by
25 the treating physician (as defined in section 1861 of

1 the Social Security Act). Any coverage provided
2 under such paragraph may be subject to coverage
3 limits, such as pre-authorization or pre-certification,
4 as required by the plan or issuer that are no more
5 restrictive than the predominant treatment limita-
6 tions applied to substantially all medical and sur-
7 gical benefits covered by the plan (or coverage).

8 “(3) TREATMENT DEFINED.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
10 subparagraph (B), in this section, the term
11 ‘treatment’ includes patient and outpatient care
12 and services performed to improve or restore
13 body function (or performed to approximate a
14 normal appearance), due to congenital anomaly
15 or birth defect and shall include treatment to
16 any and all missing or abnormal body parts,
17 (including teeth, the oral cavity, and their asso-
18 ciated structures) that would otherwise be pro-
19 vided under the plan or coverage for any other
20 injury and sickness, including—

21 “(i) inpatient and outpatient care, re-
22 constructive services and procedures, and
23 complications thereof, including prosthetics
24 and appliances;

1 “(ii) adjunctive dental, orthodontic or
2 prosthodontic support from birth until the
3 medical or surgical treatment of the defect
4 or anomaly has been completed, including
5 ongoing or subsequent treatment required
6 to maintain function or approximate a nor-
7 mal appearance;

8 “(iii) procedures that do not materi-
9 ally restore or improve the function of the
10 body part being treated; and

11 “(iv) procedures for secondary condi-
12 tions and follow-up treatment.

13 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The term ‘treatment’
14 shall not include cosmetic surgery performed to
15 reshape normal structures of the body to im-
16 prove appearance or self-esteem.

17 “(b) NOTICE UNDER GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—The
18 imposition of the requirements of this section shall be
19 treated as a material modification in the terms of the plan
20 described in the last sentence of section 102(a), for pur-
21 poses of assuring notice of such requirements under the
22 plan, except that the summary description required to be
23 provided under the fourth sentence of section 104(b)(1)
24 with respect to such modification shall be provided by not

1 later than 60 days after the first day of the first plan
2 year in which such requirements apply.”.

3 (2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

4 (A) Section 731(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C.
5 1191(c)) is amended by striking “section 711”
6 and inserting “sections 711 and 716”.

7 (B) Section 732(a) of such Act (29 U.S.C.
8 1191a(a)) is amended by striking “section 711”
9 and inserting “sections 711 and 716”.

10 (C) The table of contents in section 1 of
11 such Act is amended by inserting after the item
12 relating to section 714 the following new items:

“Sec. 715. Additional market reforms.

“Sec. 716. Standards relating to benefits for congenital anomaly or birth defect.”.

13 (c) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE AMENDMENTS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter B of chapter
15 100 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amend-
16 ed by adding at the end the following:

17 **“SEC. 9816. STANDARDS RELATING TO BENEFITS FOR CON-**
18 **GENITAL ANOMALY OR BIRTH DEFECT.**

19 “(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR RECONSTRUCTIVE TREAT-
20 MENT.—A group health plan, and a health insurance
21 issuer offering group or individual health insurance cov-
22 erage, shall provide coverage for outpatient and inpatient
23 services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a con-
24 genital anomaly or birth defect.

1 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Coverage provided under
2 subsection (a) shall include any service to functionally im-
3 prove, repair, or restore any body part that is medically
4 necessary to achieve normal body functioning or appear-
5 ance, as determined by the treating physician (as defined
6 in section 1861 of the Social Security Act). Any coverage
7 provided under such subsection may be subject to coverage
8 limits, such as pre-authorization or pre-certification, as re-
9 quired by the plan or issuer that are no more restrictive
10 than the predominant treatment limitations applied to
11 substantially all medical and surgical benefits covered by
12 the plan (or coverage).

13 “(c) TREATMENT DEFINED.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
15 graph (2), in this section, the term ‘treatment’ in-
16 cludes patient and outpatient care and services per-
17 formed to improve or restore body function (or per-
18 formed to approximate a normal appearance), due to
19 congenital anomaly or birth defect and shall include
20 treatment to any and all missing or abnormal body
21 parts, (including teeth, the oral cavity, and their as-
22 sociated structures) that would otherwise be pro-
23 vided under the plan or coverage for any other in-
24 jury and sickness, including—

1 “(A) inpatient and outpatient care, recon-
 2 structive services and procedures, and complica-
 3 tions thereof, including prosthetics and appli-
 4 ances;

5 “(B) adjunctive dental, orthodontic or
 6 prosthodontic support from birth until the med-
 7 ical or surgical treatment of the defect or
 8 anomaly has been completed, including ongoing
 9 or subsequent treatment required to maintain
 10 function or approximate a normal appearance;

11 “(C) procedures that do not materially re-
 12 store or improve the function of the body part
 13 being treated; and

14 “(D) procedures for secondary conditions
 15 and follow-up treatment.

16 “(2) EXCEPTION.—The term ‘treatment’ shall
 17 not include cosmetic surgery performed to reshape
 18 normal structures of the body to improve appearance
 19 or self-esteem.”.

20 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 21 tions for such subchapter is amended by adding at
 22 the end the following new items:

“Sec. 9815. Additional market reforms.

“Sec. 9816. Standards relating to benefits for congenital anomaly or birth de-
 defect.”.

23 (d) CLARIFYING AMENDMENT REGARDING APPLICA-
 24 TION TO GRANDFATHERED PLANS.—Section

1 1251(a)(4)(A) of the Patient Protection and Affordable
2 Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18011(a)(4)(A)), is amended by add-
3 ing at the end the following:

4 “(v) Section 2729 (relating to stand-
5 ards relating to benefits for congenital
6 anomaly or birth defect), as added by sec-
7 tion 2(a) of the Ensuring Lasting Smiles
8 Act.”.

9 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
10 this section shall apply with respect to group health plans
11 for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2020, and
12 with respect to health insurance coverage offered, sold,
13 issued, renewed, in effect, or operated in the individual
14 market on or after such date.

15 (f) COORDINATED REGULATIONS.—Section 104(1) of
16 the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
17 of 1996 is amended by striking “this subtitle (and the
18 amendments made by this subtitle and section 401)” and
19 inserting “the provisions of part 7 of subtitle B of title
20 I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of
21 1974, the provisions of parts A and C of title XXVII of
22 the Public Health Service Act, and chapter 100 of the In-
23 ternal Revenue Code of 1986”.

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