Tammy
BALDWIN
United States Senator for Wisconsin

In February, 14 year-old Aidan Abbott from Slinger and his family joined me in Washington to share their story.

Aidan was born with a rare congenital disease, Ectodermal Dysplasia, and has needed intense dental and oral care, and will continue to need reconstructive surgeries throughout his life, among other services related to Ectodermal Dysplasia.

But his insurance continues to refuse to cover his dental care needs - despite covering all of his other medical care - forcing Aidan's family to spend thousands of dollars out of their own pockets.

I know that increasing access to comprehensive health coverage for those living with Ectodermal Dysplasia, especially coverage that includes the serious dental and oral care patients like Aidan need, is critical to improving the lives of those living with Ectodermal Dysplasia.

That's why I introduced the bipartisan *Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act* to close this coverage loophole and make sure patients like Aidan can get the health care they need at a price they can afford.

Most health plans provide coverage for congenital anomalies and many states require insurers to provide coverage of any health services related to congenital anomalies or birth defects. Despite this, health plans systematically and routinely deny or delay claims and appeals for certain services, including any oral or dental related procedures- like reconstructive surgery for a cleft palate - under the pretense that such service is merely cosmetic or covered under separate dental plans. This is a common practice across the country and leaves patients like Aidan with the burden of how to pay for treatment or procedures that are necessary to restore their ability to function.

My *Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act* would address these coverage denials and delays and ensure that patients with congenital anomalies like Ectodermal Dysplasia or other birth defects get the treatment they need and deserve.

As my bipartisan legislation moves forward in the Senate, I'd like to hear more from patients and families like yours on how the *Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act* would impact you. **Please feel free to reach out to my office and share your thoughts, concerns and stories with me here.**

I am proud to have introduced the *Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act*, and truly believe that by continuing to work together can make a difference in the lives of those living with Ectodermal Dysplasia.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator for Wisconsin

If you would like to stay up to date on my work in Washington to support patients like Aidan, please sign up to receive enews from my office here.