



ALLY'S ACT

Co-led by Congressmen Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) & Mike Thompson (D-CA), and Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) & Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).

Ally, a thirteen-year-old from Colorado and Congressman Joe Neguse's constituent, was born without a right ear or hearing canal and therefore requires the use of a bone anchored hearing aid ("BAHA") which is one form of osseointegrated device ("OIDs"). Following a denial for her hearing device, Ally and her mother Melissa formed the organization Ear Community to help advocate for insurance coverage of these hearing devices and ensure no person is left unable to hear because of private insurance companies' refusal to cover OIDs.

Ally's Act (H.R. 2439/S. 1135) ensures that private insurance companies will cover these critical and life-altering devices for children and adults from birth to age 64. OIDs provide children the opportunity to develop alongside their peers and allow for adults with the same hearing loss to have a healthy education, career, and social life.

- This bill would help hundreds of thousands of children and adults have 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.
- The bill also requires the coverage of services, upgrades, surgery, and associated costs that come along with these devices at the determination of medical necessity.

Many throughout the United States are born with hearing loss due to congenital anomalies including aural atresia (underdeveloped or absent ear canals) and/or microtia (physically missing ears), where others may lose their hearing overnight due to inner ear complications. OIDs help different forms of hearing loss when traditional hearing aids cannot. For Ally and others with varying modes of hearing loss, these are often the only devices that can restore hearing.

While OIDs, which include Bone Anchored Hearing Aids (BAHAs) and Cochlear Implants, are medically necessary and address unique corrective requirements specific to varying forms of hearing loss, they are consistently denied coverage by private insurance companies, despite the critical and life-changing support these devices provide to countless individuals.

This bill is **endorsed by** over 55 advocacy, academic, and non-profit organizations, including Ear Community; American Academy of Audiology; American Cochlear Implant Alliance; American Pediatric Surgical Association; American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology; American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; Columbia University Irving Medical Center and Otolaryngology; Harvard Medical School - Massachusetts Eye and Ear/Otolaryngology; Hearing Industries Association; Hearing Loss Association of America; Hearing Health Foundation; Johns Hopkins Cochlear Implant Center, National Rural Health Association; New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai; Stanford Microtia and Atresia Clinic; and University of California San Francisco Medical School.

The full of endorsements can be found [here](#).

To cosponsor, please contact Ryan.Shuman2@mail.house.gov in Rep. Neguse's office or hannah_thompson@capito.senate.gov in Sen. Capito's office.