

DATE

The Honorable Joe Neguse
United States House of Representatives
1419 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

H.R. 2439 - “Ally’s Act”

Dear Mr. Neguse:

I am writing in support of **H.R. 2439, also known as “Ally’s Act”**. This legislation will help ensure that private insurance companies cover specific hearing devices known as bone anchored hearing aids and cochlear implants (osseointegrated devices or OIDs). These hearing devices are medically necessary for many of the constituents supported through Ally’s Act. Yet they are consistently denied coverage by private insurance companies, despite the critical and life-changing support these devices provide to countless individuals.

(Insert a quote about yourself here about why this bill is important to you and others with hearing loss. For example, “I am an acoustic neuroma patient and my hearing loss left me feeling so isolated. Although there are many hearing device options, they are very expensive and some require outpatient surgery and frequent post-op visits. This bill would make it possible to get a device to help restore hearing, which would change my life.”)

I am also a member of the Acoustic Neuroma Association (ANA), www.ANAUSA.org, which has formally endorsed this bill. The ANA is a patient organization and the premier resource for the acoustic neuroma community. Their primary goal is to improve the lives of acoustic neuroma patients and their families through communication, support, innovation and partnerships with the medical community.

Acoustic neuromas are rare, benign brain tumors. The medical advisory board of the ANA reports that diagnosis is nearly 3.5 persons per 100,000 and 5,000 are diagnosed annually in the U.S. There is no known cause for acoustic neuroma.

This bill is important to me because many acoustic neuroma patients have a specific hearing loss that only these hearing devices can aid – they help to restore hearing for both children and adults dealing with single-sided deafness. These devices offer the opportunity for them to not only live safely, but also to engage within their communities and have successful, fulfilling lives.

The extension of coverage for OIDs, and the accompaniments, medical visits and surgeries, would benefit a large variety of our communities affected by hearing loss. **That is why the bipartisan “Ally’s Act” to require insurance providers to cover these critical and life-altering devices is so important.**

Thank you for supporting this bill and further supporting those dealing with single-sided deafness.

Respectfully,