
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR MEDICALLY NECESSARY TREATMENT OF OROFACIAL ANOMALIES.

1 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, the rate of children with orofacial
2 disorders is estimated to be one in every five hundred; and
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4 WHEREAS, the rate of children in Hawaii with orofacial
5 disorders is higher among the Asian, Pacific Islander, and
6 Filipino populations that comprise the majority of the
7 population of the State; and
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9 WHEREAS, the more commonly known orofacial anomalies
10 include cleft lip or cleft palate; and
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12 WHEREAS, three hundred fifty two babies were born with
13 cleft lip and/or cleft palate in Hawaii between 1986 and 2005;
14 and
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16 WHEREAS, orthodontics are the medically necessary
17 treatments needed to proceed with subsequent reconstructive
18 surgeries for these disorders; and
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20 WHEREAS, orthodontics has been a covered medical benefit of
21 the Hawaii Medicaid program for several years, and medically
22 necessary orthodontics are included as an essential health
23 benefit under pediatric oral health in the State's healthcare
24 benefits package; and
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26 WHEREAS, orthodontics are not included as a benefit of
27 commercial health insurance; and
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29 WHEREAS, without appropriate orthodontic care,
30 reconstructive surgical outcomes are compromised and result in
31 functional deficiencies in chewing, swallowing, respiration,



1 speech, unstable or malpositioned oral structures, premature
2 tooth loss, and adverse psychosocial effects; and

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4 WHEREAS, these compromised surgical outcomes can create
5 disparities in quality of care, quality of life, and functional
6 outcomes for children with orofacial disorders; and

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8 WHEREAS, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida,
9 Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New
10 York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont,
11 Virginia, and Wisconsin have mandated health benefits, including
12 orthodontic care coverage for orofacial and related disorders;
13 and

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15 WHEREAS, mandated health benefits that include orthodontic
16 care coverage for orofacial and related disorders aid in the
17 average lifetime cost of \$10,250 for orthodontic care; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that mandatory health
20 insurance coverage for medically necessary treatment of
21 orofacial anomalies will substantially offset the financial
22 hardship on families needing treatment for their children,
23 reduce compromised surgical outcomes, and assist in good health
24 for children born with orofacial abnormalities in Hawaii; now,
25 therefore,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
29 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
30 Health is requested to conduct an impact assessment on the
31 mandatory health insurance coverage of medically necessary
32 treatment for orofacial anomalies; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
35 requested to submit findings and recommendations to the
36 Legislature, including any necessary implementing legislation,
37 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
38 Session of 2014; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health
42 and to the Insurance Commissioner, who, in turn, is requested to
43 transmit copies to each insurer in the State that issues health
44 insurance policies, and to the Children with Special Needs



1 Branch of the Department of Health, State Council on
2 Developmental Disabilities, Lifetime of Smiles Support Group,
3 Kapi'olani Cleft and Craniofacial Center, Kaiser Cleft Palate
4 Clinic, Tripler Army Medical Center Craniofacial Center, Hawaii
5 Maternal & Child Health Leadership Education in
6 Neurodevelopmental & Related Disabilities Program, Hilopa'a
7 Family to Family Health Information Center, and American Academy
8 of Pediatrics - Hawaii Chapter.

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