

# ALLY'S ACT



U.S. CONGRESSMAN  
**JOE NEGUSE**

*[H.R. 4606](#): Co-led by Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)*

*[S. 3400](#): Led by Senator John Curtis (R-UT) and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)*

## Background

Ally was born without a right ear, no ear canal, and required the use of a bone anchored hearing aid (“BAHA”), a specific type of osseointegrated device (“OID”). OIDs, as well as Cochlear Implants, are medically necessary and address unique corrective requirements specific to varying forms of hearing loss. Despite the critical and life-changing support these devices provide to countless individuals, private insurance coverage is inconsistent and results in frequent, but devastating denials.

Following a denial for her hearing device, Ally and her mother Melissa formed the organization Ear Community to help advocate for insurance coverage and ensure no person is left unable to hear because of private insurance companies’ refusal to cover OIDs and Cochlear Implants. When Ally was nine years old, her letter to Congressman Joe Neguse inspired legislation that could help thousands of Americans pay for these medically necessary hearing devices.

**Ally’s Act** ensures that private insurance companies will cover these critical and life-altering devices for children and adults from birth to age 64. OIDs and Cochlear Implants provide children the opportunity to develop alongside their peers and allow adults with the same hearing loss to have a healthy education, career, and social life.

- Less than 500,000 children and adults require access to these devices, which allow them to live the lives they dream of, 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. For Ally and others, OIDs and Cochlear Implants are the only hearing devices that help restore these specific forms of hearing loss when traditional hearing aids cannot.

To cosponsor the House bill, please contact Abbie Callahan ([abbie.callahan@mail.house.gov](mailto:abbie.callahan@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Joe Neguse’s office.

**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 Speech-Language-Hearing Association; Hearing Industries Association; Hearing Loss Association of America; National Rural Health Association.

