

January 25, 2017

Dear House of Representatives Insurance Committee,

My ten year old daughter Ava was recently diagnosed with Eosinophilic Esophagitis, Eosinophilic Gastritis and Eosinophilic Colitis. While her diagnosis is very recent (Dec 2016), her health issues are not. Since she was born (in July 2006) she has had many issues with eating- including complete refusal to eat as an infant, severe pain after eating, reflux disease, chronic constipation, anaphylactic food allergies and many oral food allergies.

All of these issues greatly restrict foods that she can consume, and has therefore greatly restricted her growth and development. She cannot get her basic nutritional needs met from food alone, and therefore requires many supplements to meet those needs currently. It is very possible one day that with her diagnosis's that she will not be able to eat any food, and will have to receive all of her nutrition from an elemental formula alone. This specialized formula is very costly, and without insurance aiding in the cost- we would not be able to afford to feed our daughter, let alone her sisters.

There is no current FDA approved treatments for her conditions- other than removal of all trigger foods in addition to her "true" food allergies. So for her foreseeable future, she will continue removal of a food group for two months followed by an endoscopy and colonoscopy to see if she has achieved remission.

Please consider aiding in the approval of this bill to help these families receive insurance coverage for medical food. It is absolutely imperative to these families who already carry great financial burden with mounting medical bills. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gregg