

Dear Congressman _____,

I am writing to ask your urgent support of **H.R. 5485 (also known as Ally's Act)** currently assigned to the **House Committee on Energy and Commerce** . This bill is very important to me. It would ensure that private insurance companies cover cochlear implants. These devices actually **allow deaf children to HEAR!** Unfortunately they are often excluded or severely limited on private insurance plans.

The cost involved in testing, surgery and technology prohibit most parents from paying out of pocket for these devices. These devices truly change lives and allow deaf children attend public school versus Schools for the Deaf. It often means the difference between hearing and communicating only through sign language. Having no access to sound all too often leads to social isolation, limited employment opportunities, and dependence on government assistance programs for many members of the Deaf community. Providing early access to hearing allows these children to live up to their full potential and become productive members of our society. Recent studies by the National Institute for Health estimate that children with severe to profound hearing loss who receive cochlear implants will save the school system an average of **\$293,070 per child** between grades 1-12, far exceeding the cost of the device.

This bill exists because a 10 year old little girl from Colorado, named Ally, wrote to Congress asking for help on this critical issue. Congressman Neguse (CO-02), alongside the co-chairs of the House Hearing Health Caucus Congressmen David B. McKinley (WV-1) - who wears one of these very hearing devices and Mike Thompson (CA-5), introduced the bipartisan "Ally's Act" to require insurance providers to cover these critical and life-altering devices.

"Ally's Act" is endorsed by Ear Community, Aid The Silent, Waiting to Hear, the American Cochlear Implant Alliance, the American Academy of Audiology and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Thank you so much for your time. Please help us by co-sponsoring **Ally's Act, H.R. 5485**.

Sincerely,

(NAME) _____

(ADDRESS) _____

(PHONE) _____