

SAMPLE LETTER - SHIRA LIPTON & ADAM KARON

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo,

Thank you for being the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act bill lead in the U.S. House of Representatives and for your unwavering support of families like ours.

Our Family's Story:

Approximately 1,300 babies born in the U.S. each year have congenital cataracts. My daughter, Rosie, is one of them. Rosie had surgery at Stanford at six weeks of age and following surgery was fitted for her first contact lens (glasses are not an option because they are not powerful enough).

My husband and I were shocked to learn these lenses are not covered by insurance and cost \$200 per lens. The lenses are changed often as the baby's eye grows and vision develops. Of course, the lens can pop out and be lost as well. By the time Rosie was 1, we had spent thousands of dollars on contact lenses. Most families simply cannot afford this.

To be clear, without these lenses, these babies are blind and have no chance of ever developing normal vision.

If ELSA passes, families would not have to make horrific choices such as their child's vision or putting food on the table.

Thank you, Congresswoman Eshoo, for your continued support and concern for all children with congenital anomalies who need and deserve care,

Shira Lipton and Adam Karon,
Rosie's mom and dad

