

February 17, 2020

Dear State of Kansas Leaders,

I want to thank you for your time that you spend discussing critical topics and advocating for the advancement of health in our great state. The Newborn Screening Bill 364 impacts every single child born in the state of Kansas.

You might know that the state of Kansas was one of the first states to implement this critical program in 1965 for a few medical conditions. However, expansion of the testing panels became common throughout the United States in the early 2000s. Until many advocated and highlighted the issue in 2008, only Arkansas, New Hampshire, and West Virginia had a less robust Newborn Screening panel (number of diseases included in testing) than Kansas. We had been an early trailblazer in this area of healthcare and then quickly became one of the worst. To avoid providing substandard care to the nearly 40,000 infants born in Kansas annually, this bill is needed.

The current Newborn Screening Program has many new diseases that are needed to be added as we have new innovative ways of truly changing the trajectory of diseases if we can identify those diseases in the first two weeks of life. No one wants a coulda, woulda, shoulda situation with just one infant's life that could have been saved with early detection and starting life saving therapy. If the Newborn Screening Bill 364 is not approved, the coulda, woulda, shoulda will happen. It won't be a matter of *if*, it will be a matter of *when* since statistics tell us this will happen multiple times per year in Kansas.

I urge you to vote in favor of the Newborn Screening Bill 364 and keep our children's health as a top priority.

Sincerely,



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