



December 1, 2019

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
Texas State Capitol Building
1100 Congress, Room 2S.1
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Governor Abbott:

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) commends the 86th Texas Legislature for providing historic support to Texas' Newborn Screening (NBS) program, which helps protect our youngest Texans from 54 debilitating and life-threatening diseases and conditions through early detection.

Senate Bills 747 and 748, 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2019 established the Newborn Screening Preservation Account, which sets aside funds to add new conditions to the NBS panel as they are approved at the federal level. Every two years, DSHS must report to the Legislature on funds used from this account, with the first report due by December 1, 2019. At this time, DSHS has not used any funds from the account; however, we would like to share our most recent testing achievement and plans to add tests in the future.

On August 5th, DSHS implemented screening for X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy, which was made possible through funds provided by Senate Bill 500. Additionally, House Bill 1 allows us access to funds to expand the NBS panel and implement additional NBS disorders. DSHS is working to request this funding and if approved, DSHS plans to expand the NBS panel to include spinal muscular atrophy by summer 2021 and to begin infrastructure planning for Pompe disease and mucopolysaccharidosis I in the next biennium.

If you would like more information about the NBS program, or have questions, Imelda Garcia, Associate Commissioner for the Division for Laboratory and Infectious Disease Services, serves as lead staff on this issue. Ms. Garcia may be reached at ImeldaM.Garcia@dshs.texas.gov or at 512-776-7679.

Sincerely,

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John Hellerstedt, M.D.



December 1, 2019

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Lt. Governor of Texas
Texas State Capitol Building
Room 2E.13
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Governor Patrick:

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John Hellerstedt, M.D.



December 1, 2019

The Honorable Dennis Bonnen
Speaker, Texas House of Representatives
Texas State Capitol Building
Room 2W.13
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Speaker Bonnen:

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December 1, 2019

Ms. Sarah Keyton
Interim Director, Legislative Budget Board
Robert E. Johnson Office Building
1501 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Keyton:

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) commends the 86th Texas Legislature for providing historic support to Texas' Newborn Screening (NBS) program, which helps protect our youngest Texans from 54 debilitating and life-threatening diseases and conditions through early detection.

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John Hellerstedt, M.D.



December 1, 2019

The Honorable Lois Kolkhorst
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Texas Senate
420 Sam Houston Building
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Chair Kolkhorst:

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) commends the 86th Texas Legislature for providing historic support to Texas' Newborn Screening (NBS) program, which helps protect our youngest Texans from 54 debilitating and life-threatening diseases and conditions through early detection.

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John Hellerstedt, M.D.



December 1, 2019

The Honorable Senfronia Thompson
Chair, Committee on Public Health
Texas House of Representatives
Capitol Extension
Room E2.1010
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chair Thompson:

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) commends the 86th Texas Legislature for providing historic support to Texas' Newborn Screening (NBS) program, which helps protect our youngest Texans from 54 debilitating and life-threatening diseases and conditions through early detection.

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John Hellerstedt, M.D.



December 1, 2019

Ms. Sarah Hicks, Policy and Budget Director
Office of the Governor
1100 San Jacinto, 4th Floor
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Hicks:

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December 1, 2019

The Honorable Ken Paxton
Attorney General of Texas
209 West 14th Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Attorney General Paxton:

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December 1, 2019

The Honorable Glenn Hegar
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
Lyndon B. Johnson Building
111 E. 17th Street
Austin, TX 78774

Dear Comptroller Hegar:

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) commends the 86th Texas Legislature for providing historic support to Texas' Newborn Screening (NBS) program, which helps protect our youngest Texans from 54 debilitating and life-threatening diseases and conditions through early detection.

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