

**Testimony on Senate Bill 436  
Senate Ways and Means Committee**

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Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about newborn screening. Dr. Moser offers his apologies that he could not attend. The newborn screening program began in 1965 when testing for phenylketonuria (PKU) began. Since then the program has added more tests and currently screens for 29 metabolic and health disorders. The goal of newborn screening is to identify and treat infants affected by a screened disorder so that disability and death can be prevented. In FY 2011 40,697 infants received initial screening and 2,798 infants had an abnormal screen which needed further testing.

This program has two components. First, the Kansas Health and Environment Laboratory screens Kansas newborns for metabolic conditions and reports lab screenings. Second, the KDHE staff in the Bureau of Family Health are responsible as part of the follow-up program that notifies families and physicians of the screening results and assists with genetic and consultant visits. The abnormal results are tracked to diagnosis. In addition, the program provides education and training to outside partners such as nurses and laboratory personnel at collection facilities.

Newborn screening is currently funded by the Children's Initiative Fund. However, CIF is expected to shrink in coming years, thus developing an alternate funding source is necessary. After meeting with stakeholders and interested parties, we believe SB 436 will provide the best solution. This bill will create a dedicated newborn screening fund which receives revenues from the health maintenance organization privilege fee. The fund will be subject to legislative appropriation and will ensure newborn screening's sustainability in the future.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment strongly supports SB 436 and asks that you favorably adopt the measure. I will be happy to stand for questions.