



August 9, 2022

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


Dear Governor Abbott:

[Senate Bill 748, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019](#), established the Newborn Screening Preservation Account, which sets aside funds to add new conditions to the Texas Newborn Screening (NBS) panel as they are approved at the federal level. Every even-numbered year, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) must report to the Legislature on funds used from this account after the first report was submitted December 1, 2019. DSHS has not accrued or 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 June 1, 2021, DSHS implemented screening for spinal muscular atrophy, using funds provided by [S.B. 747](#) and [H.B. 1](#) (86th Session, Regular Session, 2019). Both bills also allowed DSHS to begin infrastructure planning for Pompe disease, mucopolysaccharidosis I (MPS-I), and mucopolysaccharidosis II (MPS-II) in the 2024-25 biennium. These tests will ensure children/newborns with these rare conditions will receive prompt notice so that they can get early and proper care.

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,



John Hellerstedt, M.D.



August 9, 2022

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

Dear Governor Patrick:

[Senate Bill 748, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019](#), established the Newborn Screening Preservation Account, which sets aside funds to add new conditions to the Texas Newborn Screening (NBS) panel as they are approved at the federal level. Every even-numbered year, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) must report to the Legislature on funds used from this account after the first report was submitted December 1, 2019. DSHS has not accrued or 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.

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Sincerely,

John Hellerstedt, M.D.



August 9, 2022

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

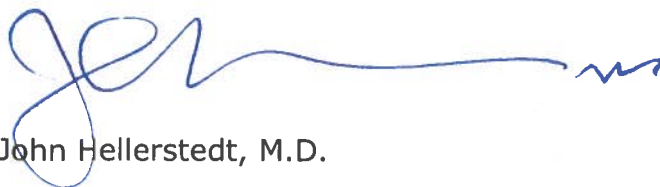
Dear Speaker Phelan:

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Sincerely,



John Hellerstedt, M.D.



August 9, 2022

Mr. Jerry McGinty II
Executive Director, Legislative Budget Board
Robert E. Johnson Office Building
1501 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. McGinty:

[Senate Bill 748, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019](#), established the Newborn Screening Preservation Account, which sets aside funds to add new conditions to the Texas Newborn Screening (NBS) panel as they are approved at the federal level. Every even-numbered year, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) must report to the Legislature on funds used from this account after the first report was submitted December 1, 2019. DSHS has not accrued or 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.

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Sincerely,

John Hellerstedt, M.D.



August 9, 2022

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

Dear Chair Kolkhorst:

[Senate Bill 748, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019](#), established the Newborn Screening Preservation Account, which sets aside funds to add new conditions to the Texas Newborn Screening (NBS) panel as they are approved at the federal level. Every even-numbered year, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) must report to the Legislature on funds used from this account after the first report was submitted December 1, 2019. DSHS has not accrued or 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.

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Sincerely,

John Hellerstedt, M.D.



August 9, 2022

The Honorable Stephanie Klick
Chair, Committee on Public Health
Texas House of Representatives
Capitol Extension, Room E2.608
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chair Klick:

[Senate Bill 748, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019](#), established the Newborn Screening Preservation Account, which sets aside funds to add new conditions to the Texas Newborn Screening (NBS) panel as they are approved at the federal level. Every even-numbered year, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) must report to the Legislature on funds used from this account after the first report was submitted December 1, 2019. DSHS has not accrued or 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.

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Sincerely,

John Hellerstedt, M.D.



August 9, 2022

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

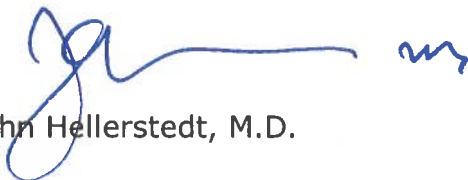
Dear Ms. Hicks:

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August 9, 2022

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

Dear Attorney General Paxton:

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Sincerely,

John Hellerstedt, M.D.



August 9, 2022

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

Dear Comptroller Hegar:

[Senate Bill 748, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019](#), established the Newborn Screening Preservation Account, which sets aside funds to add new conditions to the Texas Newborn Screening (NBS) panel as they are approved at the federal level. Every even-numbered year, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) must report to the Legislature on funds used from this account after the first report was submitted December 1, 2019. DSHS has not accrued or 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.

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