



February 23, 2018

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Chair, Newborn Screening Advisory Committee
Baylor College of Medicine
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Houston, Texas 77030

Alice Gong, M.D.
Co-Chair, Newborn Screening Advisory Committee
University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78229

Dear Dr. Guillory and Dr. Gong:

Thank you for your letter recommending that the State develop a permanent funding mechanism for conditions on the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP). I appreciate your steadfast effort on behalf of the Newborn Screening Advisory Committee to ensure that newborn screening in Texas continues to detect disorders early so newborns can have the best start in life.

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is currently undergoing a comprehensive review of the state public health laboratory's budget, including the Newborn Screening program. This effort is primarily driven by concerns related to ongoing laboratory budget issues. Because these issues are closely interlinked with your request about Newborn Screening funding mechanisms, I would like to suggest that an upcoming Committee include this topic on its agenda. I want to ensure that the Committee is well apprised of the challenges currently facing our laboratory, and the Department's ongoing efforts to identify solutions for these challenges.

I thank you and value the important work that the Newborn Screening Advisory Committee continues to do on behalf of the newborns in Texas. If you have further questions, please

Drs. Guillory and Gong

February 23, 2018

Page 2

contact Janna Zumbrun, Associate Commissioner of Laboratory and Infectious Disease Services, at (512) 776-7729 or by e-mail at Janna.Zumbrun@dshs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

John Hellerstedt, M.D.

Commissioner