



TESTIMONY

To: Committee on Appropriations
Representative Marc Rhoades, Chair

From: Diane Daldrup, State Director Program Services & Public Affairs,
March of Dimes Greater Kansas Chapter

Date: March 21, 2012

Re: SB 436 – Creating the Kansas Newborn Screening Fund

Kansas Newborn Screening Overview

Newborn screening (NBS) is a public health program that provides early identification and follow-up for treatment of infants affected by certain genetic, metabolic, hormonal and/or functional conditions. These conditions have no immediate visible effects on an infant, but unless they are detected and treated early, they can cause intellectual and physical disabilities, and even death. Currently, the Kansas NBS program includes screening for 29 of the 31 core conditions recommended by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. The program includes laboratory testing, repeat screens, short-term follow-up, treatment formula, consultation services including diagnostic tests, and database maintenance. ***In Kansas, \$2.2 million is spent each year for the NBS program.***

This covers program costs for over 42,000 newborns plus an additional 2,100 (approximately 5%) necessary repeat screens. The Kansas NBS program is primarily funded through the Children's Initiatives Fund (approximately \$2.1 million) with supplemental funding from the Title V Block Grant, Medicaid, and general funds.

NBS Financial Sustainability

SB 436 is a positive approach to addressing the long term funding needs of this important program. The Governor and Secretary Moser have taken the proactive approach of providing a funding source that will last for multiple years.

The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of women of childbearing age, infants, and children by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.

The March of Dimes supports SB 436 as a dedicated fund for NBS. This long-term solution to funding NBS is a positive step for improving the lives of children across the state. This funding will also provide the state long term savings by continuing to identify these diseases early while treatment is more affordable and successful. We strongly urge the committee to approve the passage of SB 436 to help ensure the state's financial backing of this important program.

The March of Dimes appreciates working with the legislature, Governor Brownback, KDHE, and other interested parties to find a longer-term funding source for this important public health program.