

Date April 17, 2025

TO: The Honorable Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson
Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

FROM: Patrice Held, PhD
Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program Manager
Oregon State Public Health Laboratory
Public Health Division
Oregon Health Authority
(503) 693-4100

SUBJECT: Oregon Health Authority Support for HB 2741

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson, and members of the Senate Early Childhood and Behavioral Health Committee,

On behalf of the Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program at the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory, we are pleased to support HB 2741.

The purpose of the newborn bloodspot screening program is to identify infants with treatable disorders, that may otherwise go unrecognized, to prevent adverse outcomes.

Each year, approximately 40,000 babies born in Oregon receive screening for the 45 conditions that are currently listed on our panel and nearly 100 babies each year are identified with a condition, who then receive life-saving treatment.

HB 2741 specifically authorizes OHA to maintain this essential public health service.

It also directs health care providers to perform essential steps of the program, including specimen collection, delivery, and result reporting. All infants must receive medically appropriate care consistent with the screening results.

HB 2741

Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

April 17, 2025

Page 2

HB 2741 impacts health equity by creating additional support programs, including an educational campaign for the public about the importance of screening and a follow-up care program for families whose newborn has been identified as having a condition on the panel.

In addition, HB 2741 instructs coordinated care organizations (CCOs) to cover the cost of newborn bloodspot screening, removing all financial barriers to screening that families may encounter.

The bill acknowledges the diversity of families and their choices, by recognizing philosophical exemption to screening, not just religious.

Lastly, this bill offers protection to families, by safeguarding the confidential information generated through the screening program, from public disclosure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of HB 2741. We are happy to be a resource to you as you consider the merits of HB 2741 for Oregon infants and their families.