

To: The Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavior Health
From: Cameron Bryant
Date: 4/16/2025
Re: Testimony on HB 2741

Members of the Committee,

Today I write to you as a private citizen and as a law student urging the passage of House Bill 2741 as written. The creation of a public health laboratory is crucial to allowing the state to make further informed public health decisions as the result of tests done at said laboratory. Especially for something as important as newborn bloodspot screening. This process enables parents to be informed early on of medical conditions that their newborn may be facing or that need to be prevented. A truly noble objective that the average citizen can understand. A program like this would have impacted my life directly, as I was exposed to another infant with a communicable illness in the hospital's nursery. Causing me to spend multiple weeks in the hospital before coming home for the first time. I hope that this proposed lab would help with some of these issues, albeit the program seems more focused on issues at the quite soon after birth.

However, I strongly encourage the legislature to revise its language. If you truly intend to make all newborns participate in this program you must clarify the natural privacy concerns that certain individuals would have. You could easily do this by outlining a disposal and privacy system that eases these concerns. It is impossible to get everyone to agree on giving their infants blood to the government simply because of its inherent nature. If you are more transparent however, I think more people will come to the table. Presently ORS 433.285, the statute this bill would operate under, makes exceptions for those who have religious objections. However, it too does not clarify or dissuade any privacy concerns for those who may object due to privacy concerns.

Thank you for your time,
Cameron Bryant