

# MarylandRARE

*Advocacy in Action*

January 19, 2002

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass  
Chair, Health and Government Operations  
241 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Vice Chair, Health and Government Operations  
241 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB109 (Shetty)


Dear Chair Pendergrass and Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk:

MarylandRARE is in favor of HB109 (Shetty), an act concerning the Maryland Department of Health System for Newborn Screening Requirements. Adopting this legislation will allow the timely addition of conditions to the Maryland Department of Health's newborn screening program as identified by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP).

The overall spectrum of current newborn screening done by the Maryland Department of Health has proven to increase a child's chances of living a full and healthy life. For generations, newborn screening has provided cost-effective life-saving interventions, playing a vital role in improving the health of Maryland's children. However, the timely expansion of Maryland's screening to align with the HHS RUSP as new conditions are periodically added will prove to be a more beneficial way to address heredity and congenital disorders.

For these reasons, MarylandRARE is in favor of HB109 as it will save lives and improve services currently provided by the Maryland Department of Health.

Sincerely,

  
E. Felicia Brannon, MPA  
Co-Founder, MarylandRARE

  
Mary Morlino  
Co-Founder, MarylandRARE

cc: Delegate Emily Shetty (18)