



Secular Maryland

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January 19, 2022

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241 , House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: FAVORABLE HB0109(SB0242) Maryland Department of Health – System for  
Newborn Screening – Requirements

Chairwoman and Members of the Committee:

The Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP) is a list of disorders that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recommends for states to screen as part of their state universal newborn screening (NBS) programs. According to HHS, disorders on the RUSP are chosen based on evidence that supports the potential net benefit of screening, the ability of states to screen for the disorder, and the availability of effective treatments. It is recommended that every newborn be screened for all disorders on the RUSP. The RUSP currently consists of 35 core conditions and 26 secondary conditions. Secondary conditions screening is recommended when the screening of the core conditions indicated a risk for the secondary condition.

This bill requires our state to adopt RUSP. Maryland currently screens newborns for 50 conditions. There are 34 conditions in the RUSP that Maryland currently fails to screen [Carbamoyl Phosphate Synthetase I Deficiency, Congenital Toxoplasmosis, , Gaucher, Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase Deficiency, Guanidinoacetate Methyltransferase Deficiency, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Hyperornithine with Gyrate Deficiency, Hyperornithinemia-Hyperammonemia-Homocitrullinuria Syndrome , Krabbe , Mucopolysaccharidosis Type-II, Niemann-Pick Disease, Nonketotic Hyperglycinemia , Ornithine Transcarbamylase Deficiency, Prolinemia, Pyroglutamic Acidemia, T-cell Related Lymphocyte Deficiencies]. Most states screen for the majority of disorders on

the RUSP. Some states also screen for additional disorders.

Secular Maryland advocates for state laws and policies to follow the consensus recommendations of the experts as closely as possibly. Accordingly we favor passage of this bill.