



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

May 1, 2013

Mr. Mike Glass, Office Director
Newborn Screening Program
Washington State Department of Health
1610 NE 150th Street
Shoreline, WA 98155

Dear Mr. Glass:

I am pleased to write a letter of support for the Department of Health's application to the *Program to Support New Implementation of State or Territorial Public Health Laboratory Capacity for Newborn Bloodspot Screening of SCID*. This funding will allow Washington State to create a strong SCID newborn screening (NBS) program which will save lives.

The Washington State Board of Health is responsible for making the rules that determine which conditions belong on the newborn screening panel in our state. Several years ago we convened our state's NBS Committee to evaluate SCID for inclusion on Washington's newborn screening panel. The committee used the Board's five criteria for evaluating new disorders: prevention potential/medical rationale, available treatment, public health rationale, available technology, and cost-benefit/cost-effectiveness. As a result, the committee recommended that SCID be included in the NBS panel. The Board accepted their recommendation contingent on finding sustainable funding. The funding condition will be met, as the provision for a NBS fee increase is currently in the Governor's budget, and both the house and senate budgets. Therefore, the Board is proceeding with rule making and anticipates that the requirement to screen newborns for SCID will coincide nicely with the grant funding schedule.

As co-chair of Washington State's Newborn Screening Advisory Committee and a State Board of Health member, I look forward to the implementation of SCID screening for all Washington newborns.

Sincerely,


Diana T. Ju, MD MSPH

Washington State Board of Health Member
Co-Chair of Washington State Newborn Screening Advisory Committee

cc: Dr. John Austin, Washington State Board of Health
Dr. Maxine Hayes, Department of Health
Jennifer Tebaldi, Department of Health
Tara Wolff, Washington State Board of Health
Michelle Davis, Washington State Board of Health