

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

I wholeheartedly support HB 2617. The bill's provisions will ensure that the Newborn Bloodspot Screening Advisory Board will be able to evaluate and recommend the addition or removal of diseases from the newborn bloodspot screening panel in a more efficient and effective manner. The requirement for the board to meet at least four times per calendar year and submit biennial reports to the Legislative Assembly will keep the screening process up-to-date and transparent.

Additionally, the shortening of the term of office for board members to two years and limiting their reappointment will provide fresh perspectives and new ideas in evaluating and recommending diseases to the newborn bloodspot screening panel. The bill's requirement for the Oregon Health Authority to consider, and to the greatest extent practicable, implement screening for a disease no later than 18 months after the federal committee recommends adding the disease to the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel will make sure that the most current information is being used in the screening process.

Lastly, the waiver of fees for parents or guardians who pay out of pocket for newborn bloodspot screening services will alleviate the financial burden of this important medical procedure. I believe that the provisions of this bill will improve the newborn bloodspot screening process and make it more accessible and affordable for all families.

Sincerely,

*Devon Lawson-McCourt*

Vida, Oregon