

# NEWBORN BLOODSPOT SCREENING PROGRAM

**Representative Travis Nelson**

House District 44, North and NE Portland

With support from:

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## **PROBLEM**

Every year, thousands of newborns in Oregon face the risk of undetected medical conditions that, if identified early, could be effectively treated or mitigated to prevent lifelong health complications. Currently, there is no unified system to ensure consistent and accessible newborn bloodspot screenings. Many parents may be unaware of the importance of these screenings, while others face barriers such as financial hardship or lack of clear follow-up processes for abnormal results. Without a comprehensive program, opportunities to prevent serious health issues are being missed.

## **SOLUTION: HB 2741**

Establishes a **Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program** through the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to ensure all newborns are screened for medical conditions that can be treated early. By maintaining a state public health laboratory, requiring timely collection and reporting of specimens, and implementing education and support programs for families, this legislation aims to provide equitable access to lifesaving screenings and follow-up care information.

In order to ensure proper testing, follow-up care and increase public awareness of the newborn bloodspot screening program OHA will implement:

- An educational program for health care providers, expectant parents, parents or guardians of infants and the general public. This educational program must:
  - Provide information about the medical conditions that infants are screened for with the newborn bloodspot screening program.
  - Provide information on the importance of newborn bloodspot screening to prevent or mitigate the harmful health effects of medical conditions that are screened.
  - If a newborn bloodspot screening detects a medical condition for an infant, OHA will provide the parents or guardians with information on organizations that serve populations impacted by the medical condition.
- A follow-up program to improve long-term care of individuals with medical conditions identified through screening.

This bill also includes accommodations for families with religious or philosophical objections while ensuring no family is denied services due to financial limitations.

