



August 29, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1095 (Pan) Newborn screening program
AAP-CA Position: Support

Dear Governor Brown:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing nearly 5,000 primary care and subspecialty pediatricians statewide, is proud to support SB 1095 (Pan). This bill would require the State Department of Public Health to expand statewide screening of newborns to include screening for any disease that is detectable in blood samples as soon as practicable, but no later than two years after the disease is adopted by the federal Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP).

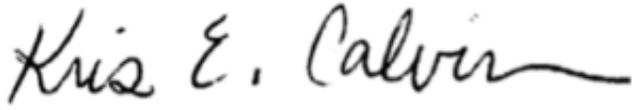
Newborn screening has proven to be essential to the long term health and well-being of babies born in California and across the United States. SB 1095 provides a much needed, practical, science-based approach to improving public health for all of California's children. Every year, millions of babies born in the U.S. are screened for a variety of diseases and conditions that might otherwise go undetected. These simple screens help provide lifesaving early warnings of conditions. This allows for the earliest diagnosis and access to potentially life-saving and life-altering treatments for babies. Early treatment is vital in ensuring the best possible life-altering health outcomes for children. In many cases, early detection can avert costly and risky medical procedures later in life. A study in the journal Pediatrics found that California saves \$9.32 in health care costs for every dollar spent on newborn screening.

SB 1095 provides a forward thinking approach to properly and thoughtfully expanding newborn screening. This bill would provide that, at a minimum, California would screen for the diseases listed on the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP) as certified by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The RUSP list is periodically updated through a thorough, deliberative review process involving a committee of experts in newborn screening. In allowing California to take advantage of the work done by these medical experts at the federal level, we can remove the obstacles to needed testing and minimize the suffering that comes from untreated diseases.

SB 1095 will ensure that babies born in California, particularly those that will be affected by debilitating and life-threatening diseases, are diagnosed and treated at the earliest age possible and without unconscionable delay. This approach is critical for improving health outcomes for children and providing the brightest future for all babies born in California.

Pediatricians, therefore, respectfully urge you to sign SB 1095 and thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris E. Calvin" with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Kris Calvin
Chief Executive Officer
American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Stuart Cohen, AAP-CA Chair; Lydia Bourne, AAP-CA Legislative Advocate; AAP-CA Leadership