



**Senate Ways and Means Committee
State of Kansas**

**Testimony on Senate Bill 436
Creating the Kansas Newborn Screening Fund
February 29, 2012**

The SCL Health System supports the passage of Senate Bill 436.

Senate Bill 436 would establish a newborn screening fund supported by appropriations from health maintenance organization privilege fee deposits to the state general fund, up to \$3 million per fiscal year.

SCL Health System operates three hospitals in Kansas: St. Francis Health Center in Topeka, Providence Medical Center in Kansas City, and Saint John Hospital in Leavenworth.

SCL Health System was a vocal advocate for the enhanced newborn screening law enacted in 2007. The value of such a simple screening tool is tremendous. Not many opportunities in health care provide the low risk, high return of newborn screening. Left undetected, these disorders are costly economically and emotionally. Screening for disorders that have identified treatment success has far reaching effects.

We support the state taking action to designate a funding stream for newborn screening, in order to be certain there is no interruption to this valuable program.

Respectfully submitted,

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