



TESTIMONY SB436
SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
February 29, 2012

The Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics represents 90% of the pediatricians in the state. We provide testimony today in support of SB 436.

The Newborn Screening Program in our state screens for a number of genetic, metabolic and hormonal conditions present at birth that can result in permanent disability and death. The program detects these conditions early in life before they become clinically apparent. In all of these conditions early detection and treatment can prevent the serious ramifications caused by these horrible diseases. In short this program saves lives and prevents damaged children.

Our program is not unlike newborn screening programs in the other 49 states. Time and again studies have shown that newborn screening is cost effective. It is one of the best investments a state can make. This is why SB 436 is so important. This bill will allow a system of funding for the program in the future. This bill will provide for all aspects of the program that are currently in place. This includes laboratory detection, follow up, consultation and case management registry. Secretary Moser and Governor Brownback should be commended for developing a way to meet the challenges of financing this important program using funding sources already in existence.

Pediatricians across the state ask you to pass SB 436. We have seen the ravages these diseases cause. We need a strong and active newborn screening program and this bill will provide that. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Dennis Cooley MD, FAAP
President
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics