



Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION

TO: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

FROM: Chad Austin
Executive Vice President

DATE: February 24, 2020

RE: Senate Bill 364 – The Newborn Screening Act

The Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments **in support** of Senate Bill 364. Through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s screening program, newborns are routinely screened at birth for 31 conditions including genetic and metabolic disorders, hearing loss and heart defects. The results of these screenings provide crucial information to parents and health care providers and enable these infants to get early diagnoses and start treatment as soon as possible.

As a member of KDHE’s Newborn Screening Advisory Council, KHA understands the need to create a comprehensive universal screening program under the direction of the Secretary of KDHE. We support increased funding to allow the program to expand its screening panel and provide additional resources to meet the needs of the families served through the program. Parents rely on KDHE to provide a comprehensive screening program that protects the health and welfare of Kansas newborns for treatable disorders.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. We urge you to support SB 364.