



Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION

TO: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

FROM: Tara Mays, Vice President, State Legislative Relations

DATE: March 3, 2022

RE: Senate Bill 155 – The Newborn Screening Act

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of Senate Bill 155. Through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s screening program, newborns are routinely screened at birth for over 30 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 one of the members of KDHE’s Newborn Screening Advisory Council, KHA understands the importance to create a comprehensive universal screening program under the direction of the Secretary of KDHE. We know that parents rely on KDHE to provide a comprehensive screening program that protects the health and welfare of Kansas newborns for treatable disorders.

Senate Bill 155 increases the amount of medical assistance fee funds that may be transferred to support the Kansas newborn screening program. These monies are used to fund the testing performed by the KDHE laboratory as well as additional follow up. KHA believes the state is the appropriate entity to fund the Kansas newborn screening program and supports the agency receiving the necessary resources to administer the program.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. We thank you for the opportunity to submit our support for SB 155.