

December 1, 2019

The Honorable Greg Abbott Governor of Texas Texas State Capitol Building 1100 Congress, Room 2S.1 Austin, TX 78701

Dear Governor Abbott:

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) commends the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature for providing historic support to Texas' Newborn Screening (NBS) program, which helps protect our youngest Texans from 54 debilitating and life-threatening diseases and conditions through early detection.

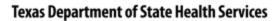
Senate Bills 747 and 748, 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2019 established the Newborn Screening Preservation Account, which sets aside funds to add new conditions to the NBS panel as they are approved at the federal level. Every two years, DSHS must report to the Legislature on funds used from this account, with the first report due by December 1, 2019. At this time, DSHS has not used any funds from the account; however, we would like to share our most recent testing achievement and plans to add tests in the future.

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, DSHS implemented screening for X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy, which was made possible through funds provided by Senate Bill 500. Additionally, House Bill 1 allows us access to funds to expand the NBS panel and implement additional NBS disorders. DSHS is working to request this funding and if approved, DSHS plans to expand the NBS panel to include spinal muscular atrophy by summer 2021 and to begin infrastructure planning for Pompe disease and mucopolysaccharidosis I in the next biennium.

If you would like more information about the NBS program, or have questions, Imelda Garcia, Associate Commissioner for the Division for Laboratory and Infectious Disease Services, serves as lead staff on this issue. Ms. Garcia may be reached at <u>ImeldaM.Garcia@dshs.texas.gov</u> or at 512-776-7679.

Jalu Ver

John Hellerstedt, M.D.





December 1, 2019

The Honorable Dan Patrick Lt. Governor of Texas Texas State Capitol Building Room 2E.13 Austin, TX 78701

Dear Governor Patrick:

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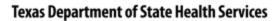
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Sincerely,

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John Hellerstedt, M.D.





December 1, 2019

The Honorable Dennis Bonnen Speaker, Texas House of Representatives Texas State Capitol Building Room 2W.13 Austin, TX 78701

Dear Speaker Bonnen:

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John Hellerstedt, M.D.





December 1, 2019

Ms. Sarah Keyton Interim Director, Legislative Budget Board Robert E. Johnson Office Building 1501 N. Congress Avenue Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Keyton:

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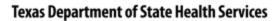
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John Hellerstedt, M.D.





December 1, 2019

The Honorable Lois Kolkhorst Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services Texas Senate 420 Sam Houston Building Austin, TX 78701

Dear Chair Kolkhorst:

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) commends the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature for providing historic support to Texas' Newborn Screening (NBS) program, which helps protect our youngest Texans from 54 debilitating and life-threatening diseases and conditions through early detection.

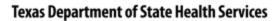
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John Hellerstedt, M.D.





December 1, 2019

The Honorable Senfronia Thompson Chair, Committee on Public Health Texas House of Representatives Capitol Extension Room E2.1010 Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chair Thompson:

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John Hellerstedt, M.D.

**Texas Department of State Health Services** 



John Hellerstedt, M.D. Commissioner

December 1, 2019

Ms. Sarah Hicks, Policy and Budget Director Office of the Governor 1100 San Jacinto, 4th Floor Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Hicks:

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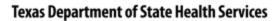
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John Hellerstedt, M.D.





December 1, 2019

The Honorable Ken Paxton Attorney General of Texas 209 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street Austin, TX 78701

Dear Attorney General Paxton:

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John Hellerstedt, M.D.

**Texas Department of State Health Services** 



John Hellerstedt, M.D. Commissioner

December 1, 2019

The Honorable Glenn Hegar Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Lyndon B. Johnson Building 111 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street Austin, TX 78774

Dear Comptroller Hegar:

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