

200 First Street SW  
Rochester, Minnesota 55905  
507-284-2511

January 19, 2007

Patricia Segal Freeman  
P.O. Box 64975  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

**Piero Rinaldo, M.D., Ph.D.**  
Chair  
Division of Laboratory Genetics  
507-284-5859 Fax 507-266-2888  
rinaldo@mayo.edu

Via e-mail: [NBSrule@health.state.mn.us](mailto:NBSrule@health.state.mn.us)

Re: Letter in support of proposed rules changes to newborn screening in Minnesota

Dear Ms. Freeman:

I would like to convey the strong support of the Mayo Clinic to the proposed newborn screening rule changes as published in the November 20, 2006 state register.

In the last five years, our State has developed an infrastructure in support of the newborn screening program that is considered one of the very best in the country, and likely in the whole world. In addition to dedicated and caring professionals, the Minnesota system is driven by a public-private partnership between the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the University of Minnesota, and the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. The benefits of this innovative convergence of talent and experience are far reaching, and include the systematic reliance on the best possible medical and public health evidence to achieve the goal of protecting the lives and health of the more than 70,000 newborns each year in Minnesota.

Adoption of these rules will make the program stronger, more efficient and capable to respond timely to future opportunities and challenges.

Sincerely,



Piero Rinaldo, MD, PhD  
Professor of Laboratory Medicine

cc Mr. Franklin W. Iossi, Mayo Government Relations



200 First Street SW  
Rochester, Minnesota 55905  
507-284-2511

Via Facsimile: 651-296-2089

**Kathleen A. Meyerle**  
Legal Counsel

May 16, 2008

The Honorable Tim Pawlenty  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Newborn Screening, SF 3138

Dear Governor Pawlenty:

I am writing to ask you on behalf of Mayo Clinic and Mayo Health System to sign the newborn screening bill, SF3138, when it reaches your desk. This bill has been significantly misrepresented by opponents to the bill but the Legislature, acting with the facts, passed a balanced compromise bill.

We are highly concerned about the future of the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics if the adverse attitudes towards genetic research perpetrated by the bill's opponents prevail. A veto of this bill could jeopardize the future of genomics research in Minnesota. It sends a chilling signal to the research community at Mayo and the University of Minnesota that research into genetic causes of disease is suspect and not to be done in Minnesota. Mayo is recognized nationally for conducting cutting edge research for new newborn screening tests and a veto of this bill will jeopardize Minnesota's leading position in this field.

SF3138 is:

- 1) stronger than current law
- 2) adds language addressing the rights of parents
- 3) goes even further than current law by specifying the rights of parents
- 4) includes language requiring documentation by the hospital that the parents were offered the opportunity to ask questions about the test and the use of the blood spots.

Mayo, the Minnesota Medical Association, the Minnesota Chapter of the American Association of Pediatrics, the Minnesota Hospital Association, and the March of Dimes all strongly support this bill. Please sign SF3138 into law.

May 16, 2008  
Honorable Tim Pawlenty  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Franklin Iossi".

Franklin Iossi  
Director, State Government Relations  
Mayo Clinic and Mayo Health System

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric D. Wieben".

Eric D. Wieben, Ph.D.  
Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine

KAM/kdl

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