



Dear Health and Human Services Committee,

Nebraska Cures has been a leading advocate for health science research for over 20 years. We support policies rooted in science and strive to advance the quality of life and economy for Nebraskans. In alliance with our mission, we strive to educate policymakers on medical research and health related public policy.

I am writing to express our opposition to LB 310, which seeks to eliminate the requirement for newborn screenings in Nebraska. We believe that these mandatory newborn screenings are an essential component of public health and contribute to the well-being of our youngest citizens.

Newborn screening programs have proven to be invaluable in identifying and addressing potential health issues in infants at an early stage. Of the nearly four million babies born each year in the United States, nearly 13,000 receive a diagnosis from their newborn screening<sup>1</sup>. These programs are a cost-effective means of safeguarding the health of our community and preventing the long-term economic and social costs associated with untreated medical conditions.

This newborn screening process is vital for the early identification and treatment of various congenital disorders, which, if left undetected and untreated, can lead to severe health issues or even infant mortality. The early detection of health conditions through newborn screening is supported by a wealth of scientific evidence and is a standard practice that has saved lives.

We understand and respect the complexity of personal beliefs and choices. However, when it comes to public health and the well-being of children, it is imperative that decisions are guided by scientific evidence and best practices. Any exemption could potentially delay life-saving interventions and treatments for newborns. Nebraska Cures stands firmly against any legislation that would undermine these principles.

We urge the legislature to consider the potentially detrimental impact of LB 310 and to oppose this bill. Our commitment is to ensure that all children in Nebraska have the best start in life, which includes the benefits of newborn screening. We believe that LB 310 should not advance out of committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda McGill Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amanda McGill Johnson  
Nebraska Cures Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> CDC National Center for Health Statistics (2023)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/births.htm>