THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

July 27, 2011

R. Rodney Howell, M.D.
Committee Chairperson
Secretary's Advisory Committee on Heritable
Disorders in Newborns and Children
5600 Fishers Lane
Room 18A19
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Howell:

Thank you for preparing the report on *Newborn Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)*, which I had requested. The report provides helpful information on current state and federal efforts to address the recommendation of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Newborns and Children (SACHDNC) to add SCID to the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel.

The collaboration among the Department of Health and Human Services' agencies to facilitate state and territory implementation of newborn screening for SCID, as well as the partnership demonstrated among state and territory public health newborn screening programs, has been influential in furthering improvement and expansion of screening for this life-threatening disorder. The pilot projects described in the report continue to generate new knowledge that will serve to improve early disease detection and treatment and provide valuable information to other states considering the addition of SCID to their state newborn screening panel. The report provides a valuable example of the importance of the SACHDNC in providing guidance to assist states and territories in implementing the most up-to-date research, technology, laboratory, and public health standards and practices as part of their newborn screening programs.

Please accept my appreciation to you, the members, and the organizational representatives of the SACHDNC, for your work to improve the health of our nation's infants and children.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sebelius

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