



September 10, 2013

The Honorable Kay Hagan
U.S. Senate
501 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hagan:

The American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) endorses your legislation, S.1417, the “Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2013,” which would preserve recent advances in state newborn screening programs. Since the enactment of earlier legislation, the number of states testing for 29 of the 31 treatable core conditions has increased four-fold. S.1417 would preserve these gains.

One result of greater federal involvement in newborn screening is that more than 98 percent of all newborns are now screened for these 29 conditions. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) this early screening has resulted in 12,500 babies receiving life-saving treatments and interventions annually. This legislation has played a critical role in improving the lives of these children.

In addition to expanding access to newborn screening, S.1417 would:

- assist state screening programs better assess and coordinate newborn treatments;
- continue research towards identifying treatments for conditions that can be detected through early testing;
- ensure the quality of testing provided by newborn screening laboratories; and
- renew the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Heritably Disorders in Newborns and Children.

AACC is pleased to once more support this important legislation. We offer our assistance in gaining its passage.

Senator Hagan
September 10, 2013
Page Two

By way of background, AACC is the principal association of professional laboratorians-- including MDs, PhDs and medical technologists. AACC's members develop and use chemical concepts, procedures, techniques and instrumentation in health-related investigations and practice in hospitals, independent laboratories and the diagnostics industry worldwide. The AACC provides international leadership in advancing the practice and profession of clinical laboratory science and medicine and its applications to health care. If you have any questions, please call me at (410) 328-8672, or Vince Stine, PhD, Director, Government Affairs, at (202) 835-8721.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Christenson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Robert Christenson, PhD, DABCC, FACB
President, AACC