



*Better health through
laboratory medicine.*

March 15, 2021

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
U.S. Senate
324 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

The American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) endorses your legislation, S.350, the “Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act,” which would preserve advances in state newborn screening programs. When the initial law was enacted in 2008, only 10 states and the District of Columbia screened for 29 treatable core conditions. Now all jurisdictions test for 30 of 35 recommended core conditions. S.350 would preserve these gains.

One result of greater federal involvement in newborn screening is that more than four million babies are screened for these conditions. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) this early screening resulted in more than 12,000 newborns 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.350 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 Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children.

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

Senator Hassan
March 15, 2021
Page Two

AACC is a global scientific and medical professional organization dedicated to clinical laboratory science and its application to healthcare. AACC brings together more than 50,000 clinical laboratory professionals, physicians, research scientists, and business leaders from around the world focused on clinical chemistry, molecular diagnostics, mass spectrometry, translational medicine, lab management, and other areas of laboratory science to advance healthcare collaboration, knowledge, expertise, and innovation.

We look forward to working with you on this important issue. If you have any questions, please email Vince Stine, PhD, AACC's Senior Director of Government and Global Affairs, at vstine@aacc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David G. Grenache". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "G".

David G. Grenache, PhD, D(ABCC)
President, AACC