



**Senate Health & Human Services**  
**Testimony of the Texas Medical Association, Texas Pediatric Society, and**  
**March of Dimes**  
**House Bill 740 by Rep. Myra Crowover and Sen. Bob Deuell, MD**  
**May 7, 2013**

Good day, Chair Nelson and members of the committee. I'm Michael Speer, MD, president of the Texas Medical Association, representing 47,000 physician and students. I'm also a neonatologist at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, professor of pediatrics and ethics at Baylor College of Medicine, and a current member of the state's Newborn Screening Advisory committee. Today I'm representing TMA, the Texas Pediatric Society, and the March of Dimes to voice our support of House Bill 740. We also want to thank Sen. Bob Deuell and Rep. Myra Crowover for their work on this important issue.

Texas physicians know appropriate screening for critical congenital heart conditions can lead to earlier diagnosis and better outcomes for Texas infants. Screening can help determine if a newborn has structural heart defects, which may require some type of intervention, including surgery, soon after birth. These critical congenital heart diseases account for an estimated 17-31 percent of all congenital heart disease.<sup>1</sup>

Currently, Texas newborns are screened for 29 disorders identified on the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel, along with congenital hearing loss. With the addition of critical congenital heart disease, HB 740 would align state law with national guidelines for newborn screening.

Genetic disorders screenings are largely conducted at the state laboratory. But like hearing screening, screening for heart diseases would require a physiologic test at the hospital. The statewide Newborn Screening Advisory Committee tasked with advising the state on newborn screening can help review and recommend protocols to ensure these screenings are implemented smoothly and effectively in hospitals across Texas.

In closing, I want to again thank you Madame Chair, members of this committee, and Senator Deuell for the opportunity to speak in support of HB 740. Please allow me to answer any questions you may have.

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<sup>1</sup> Knapp, AA, Metterville, DR, Kemper, AR, Prosser, L, Perrin, JM. Evidence review: Critical congenital cyanotic heart disease, Final Draft, September 3, 2010. Prepared for the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration