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Testimony on Infant Developmental Screening, HB 2350
to
House Health and Human Services Committee

by Linda Kenney
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Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2350. This bill authorizes the Secretary of Health and Environment to review each month the vital statistics records to identify infants at risk of developmental delay or disability. For those with low birth weight, low APGAR score or congenital anomaly noted on the certificate of live birth, a letter would be sent to the parents informing them of the availability of community early intervention services. The bill makes it unlawful to disclose any data in a manner other than as specified in the law and assures that the services available to the family are voluntary.

While KDHE supports the purpose of this bill, another bill introduced this session will provide the same benefits to the family while assuring comprehensive components for a statewide system on birth defects information. In addition to facilitating access to early intervention and treatment, SB 418 includes use of an information system: 1) to identify and describe congenital anomalies, stillbirths and abnormal conditions of newborns; 2) to detect trends and epidemics in congenital anomalies, stillbirths and abnormal conditions of newborns; 3) to quantify morbidity and mortality of congenital anomalies and abnormal conditions of newborns; 4) to stimulate epidemiological research regarding congenital anomalies, stillbirths and abnormal conditions of newborns; 5) to identify risk factors for congenital anomalies, stillbirths and abnormal conditions of newborns; 6) to facilitate intervention in and prevention of congenital anomalies, stillbirths and abnormal conditions of newborns; and 7) to inform and educate the public about congenital anomalies, stillbirths and abnormal conditions of newborns.

We respectfully ask that support be given to SB 418 creating a birth defects information system in lieu of HB 2350.

Thank you for your consideration.



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