Date: December 6, 2017

To: Commissioner Ed Ehlinger

Through: Paul Allwood, Assistant Commissioner, Health Protection Bureau
Joanne Bartkus, Public Health Laboratory Division, Director

From: Jan Larson, Advisory Committee for Heritable and Congenital Disorders Chairman
Mark McCann, Newborn Screening Section Manager, Public Health Laboratory Division
Maggie Dreon, Newborn Screening Genetic Counselor, Advisory Committee Coordinator
Sondra Rosendahl, Newborn Screening Genetic Counselor, Advisory Committee Coordinator

Subject: Request for Response to the Recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Heritable and Congenital Disorders

The Minnesota Advisory Committee on Heritable and Congenital Disorders would like you to consider the expansion of the Minnesota newborn screening panel to include spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). The Minnesota Department of Health Newborn Screening Program supports this recommendation. The mechanism for revising the list is described in Minnesota Statute, 144.125 “Tests of infants for heritable and congenital disorders,” as follows:

“The list of tests to be performed may be revised if the changes are recommended by the advisory committee established under section 144.1255, if approved by the commissioner, and published in the State Register. The revision is exempt from the rulemaking requirements in chapter 14, and sections 14.385 and 14.386 do not apply.”

Expansion is being sought because the Committee believes that Minnesota is capable of initiating screening, the treatment benefit is obvious, early detection is critical, and that the information made available supports the addition of SMA to the Minnesota panel at this time.

Be it resolved that the Minnesota Department of Health’s Advisory Committee on Heritable and Congenital Disorders recommends to the Commissioner of Health that testing for Spinal Muscular Atrophy be added to the Minnesota newborn screening panel without waiting for the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children (ACHDNC) to recommend it for the recommended uniform screening panel (RUSP).

Motion carries – 14 ayes, 1 nay

We hope you find this package helpful as you thoughtfully consider this recommendation.

Request for Response
We ask you to review this package and the Committee’s recommendation and provide us with a response at your earliest convenience. For your awareness, the next Committee meeting will be held on April 17th, 2018.

Enclosure: SMA Flash Drive