



AMERICAN JEWISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

September 29, 2025

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the American Jewish Medical Association (AJMA) we are writing to express support for adding Gaucher disease to the newborn screening panel in this state. Gaucher disease is the most prevalent genetic disease in the Ashkenazi Jewish population affecting approximately 1/500 births. As a state with a considerable size Jewish population, we believe that many of our children are being misdiagnosed and enduring long diagnostic odysseys due to not being screened at birth.

Patients coming from states that screen for Gaucher benefit from close surveillance and timely initiation of enzyme replacement therapy (ERT). Early intervention results in prevention of irreversible organ damage, normalization of blood counts, and normal growth and development. Parents benefit from clear information, reduced anxiety, and the assurance that a validated, treatable condition was not overlooked.

The technology for accurate, reliable Gaucher newborn screening already exists and has been in use for years within other states. Inclusion of Gaucher in this state's panel would immediately redress inequity faced by these newborns compared to other states. On behalf of the American Jewish Medical Association (AJMA) please advance Gaucher newborn screening to prevent avoidable suffering, advance evidence-based best-practice, and save lives.

Founded in December 2023, AJMA is the first national organization representing and uniting Jewish medical students, physicians, and healthcare professionals across all specialties and backgrounds. *The AJMA builds an empowered community of Jewish Healthcare Professionals committed to combatting discrimination and antisemitism by promoting merit and excellence.* We uphold the Jewish commitment to healing, strengthening the profession around the world.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yael Halaas

Yael Halaas, Founder and President
American Jewish Medical Association (AJMA)

Michelle Stravitz

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