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To Whom This May Concern:

On behalf of the Jewish Orthodox Women's Medical Association (JOWMA), I'm writing to express support for adding Gaucher disease to the newborn screening panel in our 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 JOWMA, please advance Gaucher newborn screening to prevent avoidable suffering, advance evidence-based best-practice, and save lives.

Sincerely,



Miriam A. Knoll, M.D., DABR
Radiation oncologist at Northwell Health
CEO, Jewish Orthodox Women's Medical Association