



Wisconsin Medical Society

Your Doctor. Your Health.

TO: Department of Health and Family Services

FROM: Mark Grapentine, JD – Senior Vice President, Government Relations, on behalf of Society's Council on Legislation

DATE: March 5, 2008

RE: Support for permanent rule change to HFS 115.04

The Wisconsin Medical Society's Council on Legislation, one of the Society's policy-making Strategic Councils, appreciates this opportunity to register its support for making HFS 115.04(14) permanent.

Adding a test for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) to existing newborn screening requirements continues Wisconsin's dedication as one of the nation's newborn screening leaders. Early identification holds tremendous benefits for those newborns identified with SCID, including that it can literally be life saving. Bone marrow transplantation – the needed treatment when a baby is born without T-cells – is most effective when accomplished as early as possible, and adding the test for SCID to the newborn screening panel ensures the need for treatment is identified as soon as possible.

The Council reviewed the proposal to make the emergency rule permanent, and concluded that doing so would be in the best interests of Wisconsin newborns.

Thank you for this opportunity to share the Council's support for this rule.