



Cheyenne Regional

January 25, 2016

Senator John Barrasso  
United State Senate  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: S.2041 - "Promoting Life-Saving New Therapies for Neonates Act of 2015"**

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center is pleased to lend enthusiastic support to the recently introduced bill, S.2041-"Promoting Life-Saving New Therapies for Neonates Act of 2015".

Cheyenne Regional's mission is to nurture and improve the health of individuals and the quality of life for our community. As a county memorial hospital, the mission is aimed at everyone we serve regardless of age or ability to pay.

In Laramie County, the infant mortality rate (7.7/1,000 births) is slightly higher than both the Wyoming and United States rate (6.8 and 6.5/1,000 births, respectively). Additionally, premature births in the state of Wyoming have represented between 9% and 11% of all births since 2006.

In order to further strengthen the quality of care provided to this vulnerable population, Cheyenne Regional has recently entered into a care alliance with Children's Hospital Colorado, ranked in the top 5 of the nation's best children's hospitals. This alliance will aid in the improvement of newborn health outcomes in Laramie County, and can be enhanced further through the proposed legislation.

Resulting from a lack of convincing data to support their safety and efficacy, more than 90% of medications administered to preterm infants are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the prescribed indication. Furthermore, and despite policy efforts, few drug labeling changes made under pediatric legislation have included neonates. More can be done to incentivize development in this area. Cheyenne Regional believes S.2041 offers an effective model of incentives, unique to neonates, which will drive improvement and innovation and address the most critical needs in the neonatal population.

Cheyenne Regional congratulates the sponsors of S.2041 for their work, and looks forward to meaningful change it is sure to create with its passage.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Simpson Sherard, PhD  
CSO and VP of Population Health  
Cheyenne Regional Medical Center  
and

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**CHEYENNE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

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