



November 23, 2015

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Senator Cornyn:

The National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) enthusiastically supports the recently introduced bill, S.2041—"Promoting Life-Saving New Therapies for Neonates Act of 2015" and we urge you to consider co-sponsorship.

NANN is the leading voice for neonatal nurses who care for the 200,000 sick infants born in the United States every year. Since its creation in 1984, NANN has advocated on behalf of the vulnerable babies who do not have the voice to speak up for themselves. That fundamental charge drives NANN's strong interest in the development of innovative therapies for the treatment of critically-ill newborns across the country and closely aligns NANN with the designed purpose of S.2041. Striving to improve newborn health outcomes is a NANN top priority, and we believe that cause will be greatly furthered by the provisions of the Promoting Life-Saving New Therapies for Neonates Act of 2015.

NANN appreciates and understands the significance of providing high-quality health care. With members on the front lines of neonatal health, NANN is well aware of the limited drug development in the area over the past 20 years, despite federal efforts and the clear negative consequences for sick babies and their families.

Today, NANN consists of more than 7,300 members throughout the United States and internationally, including 104 Texans represented by the North Texas Chapter of NANN. NANN not only represents thousands of neonatal nurses who care for these fragile infants, but we also unify the voice of neonatal nurse practitioners (NNPs) through the National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners (NANNP), which is a division of NANN. NNPs are board-certified and licensed professionals who, in collaboration with neonatologists, make decisions regarding drug choices for these critically-ill babies. NANN and NANNP represent the workforce supporting the nation's premature and sick infants in NICUs across the United States. These babies rely on us to provide life-saving treatment.

NANN also recently began collaborating with the International Neonatal Consortium (INC), which is led by the Critical Path Institute (C-Path). Through our association with INC, NANN is kept abreast of global and national concerns regarding the urgent need to develop new therapies. All of these engagements have led us to a single conclusion – neonatal health care is in need of urgent congressional action to help spur the development of life-saving cures for our nation's babies.





NANN believes that current pediatric policies should be supplemented to stimulate neonatal drug development and encourage continued improvements in newborn health outcomes. NANN also believes Congress is key to this progress because of its power to grant the U.S. Food and Drug Administration the authority to issue a separate incentive to our industry partners to develop new therapies that specifically address diseases of neonates. Without this process, our newborn patients will continue to be subjected to therapies that have insufficient efficacy and safety data.

NANN applauds Senators Bill Cassidy and Robert Casey in sponsoring S. 2041—"Promoting Life-Saving New Therapies for Neonates Act of 2015." This bill has historic significance for newborns in the United States and those of us who stand by them at their bedsides. On behalf of sick infants and their families, we urge you to co-sponsor S. 2041 by contacting the offices of Senator Casey or Senator Cassidy. Thank you for your continued efforts to give our nation's babies healthier lives and brighter futures.

Sincerely,

Rachel Berns, RNC-NIC

Rachel Berns, MSN, RNC-NIC
President, North Texas Chapter of NANN
6584 Axton Lane, Dallas, Texas 75214
Phone: (817)891-0298
Email: RachelBerns@texashealth.org

