



The leading change agent for the neonatal nursing profession

November 3, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
United States Senate
455 Dirkson Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Senator Alexander:

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."

NANN is the leading voice for neonatal nurses who care for sick infants. Each year, 200,000 ill infants are born in the United States. Since 1984, NANN has advocated for these vulnerable babies who do not have the voice to speak or ability to cast their votes. NANN's strong interest in the future development of innovative therapies for these critically ill newborns closely aligns with the designed purpose of S.2041. Striving to improve newborn health outcomes is a NANN top priority.

NANN appreciates and understands the significance of providing high-quality health care. NANN is well aware of the limited neonatal drug development during the past 20 years, despite federal efforts and the negative implications for the babies we care for and their families.

Today, NANN consists of more than 7,300 members throughout the United States and internationally. NANN not only represents thousands of neonatal nurses who care for these fragile babies, 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 critically ill babies in NICUs across the United States. These babies rely on us to provide life-saving therapies.

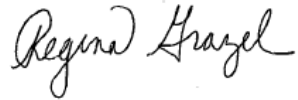
NANN recently began collaborating with the International Neonatal Consortium (INC), which is led by the Critical Path Institute (C-Path). Through our association with INC, NANN is kept abreast of global and national concerns regarding the urgent need to develop new therapies.

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 that Congress is key to this progress because they are able 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 Senator 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, thank you very much for your efforts to make their futures brighter.

Sincerely,



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