



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

September 7, 2012

Joseph A. Bocchini, Jr., M.D.
Committee Chairperson
Secretary's Advisory Committee on Heritable
Disorders in Newborns and Children
Professor and Chairperson
Department of Pediatrics
Louisiana State University
1501 Kings Highway
Shreveport, LA 71130

Dear Dr. Bocchini:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children's (Committee) report on *Improving Data Quality and Quality Assurance in Newborn Screening by Including the Bloodspot Screening Collection Device Serial Number on Birth Certificates*. I appreciate the Committee's thoughtful recommendations and expert advice in addressing important quality assurance issues and offering useful public health tools for states to consider.

At this time, further analysis of the issues and advice on the Committee's recommendations by relevant Department of Health and Human Services agencies is needed before I can make a decision. Therefore, I am referring the Committee's report to the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Newborn and Children Screening (ICC) for its review and input regarding the Committee's recommendations for the development of quality assurance mechanisms to improve data quality in newborn screening. I will encourage the ICC to submit a report with their analysis, advice, and recommendations by March 31, 2013.

Please accept my thanks to you, the members, and the organizational representatives of the Committee for your valuable work to improve the health of our nation's infants and children.

Sincerely,

/S/

Kathleen Sebelius