



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR WILLIAM N. BROWNSBERGER

Second Suffolk and Middlesex District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 413C
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053
TEL. (617) 722-1280
FAX (617) 722-1069

WILLIAM.BROWNSBERGER@MASENATE.GOV
WWW.MASENATE.GOV

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON
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TO: Committee on Public Health

FROM: Senator William N. Brownsberger

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.N.B.", with a horizontal line underneath.

RE: S1008, An Act relative to newborn pulse oximetry screenings for congenital heart defects

DATE: June 4, 2013

I am writing in support of S1008, an Act relative to newborn pulse oximetry screenings for congenital heart defects.

Congenital Heart Defects are the most common birth defects in the U.S. and nearly one in three infants who die from a birth defect have a heart defect. Wider use of non-invasive, inexpensive pulse oximetry screenings will greatly improve the likelihood of identifying newborns at risk for heart defects.

When Congenital Heart Defects are not recognized in the hospital, newborns are at risk for serious complications with the first days or weeks of life and often require emergency care. I hope the committee will report S1008 favorably.

