Southcentral Foundation

Vision
A Native Community that enjoys physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness.

Mission
Working together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services.

Customer-Owners
Over 70,000 Alaska Native and American Indian People

Community Served
Anchorage Service Unit and 55 Tribes to Include:

Anchorage
Matanuska Susitna Borough
Chickaloon
Chitina
Eklutna
Igiugig
Iliamna
Kenaitze
Knik
Kokhanok
McGrath
Newhalen
Ninilchik
Seldovia
St. Paul Island
Tyonek

Services Offered
Over 90 Community-Based Programs Including:
Medical
Behavioral
Dental
Specialty
Co-Manage the Alaska Native Medical Center

Board of Directors
Karen Caindec, Chair
Lisa Wade, Vice Chair
Thomas Huhndorf, Secretary
Terry Simpson, MD, Treasurer
R. Greg Encelewski
Roy M. Huhndorf
Carol Gore
Sandra Haldane, RN
Jessie Marrs, MD

President and CEO
April Kyle, MBA

Tribal Authority
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

November 2, 2026

Department of Health
Division of Public Health
ATTN: Lorrie Folmar, RN
3601 C Street, Suite 322
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Proposed Changes on Newborn Bloodspot Screening Fee

Dear Ms. Folmar,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment related to newborn bloodspot screening fees. Southcentral Foundation (SCF) healthcare providers help deliver infants at the Alaska Native Medical Center, which SCF co-manages with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. SCF clinical and operational leaders appreciate the partnership with state agencies in facilitating screening of newborns for congenital diseases shortly after birth.

SCF clinical experts have raised a concern regarding the proposed revisions to 7 AAC 80.030(a). Currently, the fee structure allows for payment related to testing for conditions that are not required under 7 AAC 27.510. That regulation requires only testing for four conditions. There is concern that if the regulation is adopted as drafted, it may not be possible to easily test newborns for other conditions due to the proposed revised language.

A possible solution would be to further revise the regulatory framework to collect fees that cover testing as determined by the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children (ACHDNC) which advises the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The ACHDNC promulgates the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP), which screens for dozens of conditions. If the state adopted the RUSP in regulations it could nimbly respond to changing guidance as medical understanding evolves over time. This could ensure parents and providers receive the information they need to care for infants, while allowing for the efficient and effective operation of this public program.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, please contact SCF's Executive Vice President of Specialty Services Dr. Matt Hirschfeld, at mhirschfeld@southcentralfoundation.com.

Sincerely,
SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION

April Kyle, MBA
President and CEO