

Taneeka Hansen

From: Heaney, Robert P. <rpheaney@creighton.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2013 11:23 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Cc: Taneeka Hansen
Subject: HB 90

Categories: Vitamin D

Dear Representative Seaton:

This is to indicate my enthusiastic support for HB 90, which you have introduced into the Twenty-eighth Legislature – First Session. It should provide accurate information on the vitamin D status of newborns in Alaska, a necessary first step in defining whether there is a problem of inadequate vitamin D status, and if so, what its magnitude may be.

The first year of life is a critical period for newborns, as many of the body systems are being programmed at that time for their function throughout life. There is a large body of persuasive evidence indicating that low vitamin D status during this period can have ramifications on the body's immune system, the development of chronic diseases such as diabetes, learning and language disabilities, and even serious mental disorders such as schizophrenia.

The bill wisely restricts the program to a single year, which should be sufficient to allow the State to define its vitamin D status, while keeping the costs relatively low.

Please call on me if I can provide further information or support. I truly believe that Alaska is setting the pace for the other 49 states, and I heartily applaud this effort.

Best regards,



Robert P. Heaney, M.D.

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