CITIZEN PETITION to Governor Tim Pawlenty

OPPOSING the 2009 Baby DNA Bill and the Proposed Elimination of Genetic Privacy & DNA Property Rights for Newborn Citizens

I, the undersigned citizen oppose House File 1341 (Thissen(D)/Abeler(R)) and Senate File 1478 (Scheid(D)/Rosen(R)) because the legislation written by the MN Department of Health (MDH):

• **Eliminates Genetic Privacy Rights for Newborn Children.** Newborn blood and DNA, taken at birth for government newborn genetic testing will be exempted from the legal rights and protections of the Minnesota Genetic Privacy Law (MN Statutes 13.386) – HF 1341, p. 1, lines 21-24.

• **Eliminates Written Informed Consent Requirements for Government Storage and Use of Baby DNA:** The bill exempts MDH collection, storage, use, and sharing of newborn blood and DNA from the written informed consent requirements of the 2006 MN Genetic Privacy Law. Parents will be able to object, but no written consent will be required before the blood and DNA is taken, warehoused, and used for genetic research.

• **Enables Genetic Research on Children without Parent Consent:** Unless parents in the midst of post-delivery exhaustion understand what is happening and object, their baby’s blood & DNA will become *State property*, warehoused & used for research without consent.

• **Eliminates the Right to Sue for Government Violation of Genetic Privacy Rights:** The bill exempts MDH collection of newborn genetic information and baby DNA from the strong protections & legal options of the MN Government Data Practices Act.

• **Excludes Biological Specimens (Baby DNA) from the Definition of ‘Genetic Information’:** The state genetic privacy law only protects ‘genetic information.’ The exclusion of biological specimens from the definition will allow government and private researchers to extract DNA from newborn blood for analysis and research without consent.

• **Legalizes the Illegal Activities of the Minnesota Department of Health:** On March 23, 2007, an administrative law judge issued a ruling against the Department saying the MDH is violating the state genetic privacy law by storing and using newborn blood for research without parent consent. On March 11, 2009, nine MN families sued the Department. This bill eliminates the right of parents to sue, or to even claim their rights are being violated.

Please deliver this signed petition to Governor Pawlenty.

Signature___________________________________________________Date____________________

Name (PLEASE PRINT NEATLY)________________________________________________________

I am also a Healthcare Professional (type):_____________________________________________

Address____________________________________City_______________State____Zip___________

Phone__________________________________Email _____________________________


Email: info@cchconline.org or COMPLETE AND FAX to CCHC: #651-646-0100

or click and send online: http://www.cchconline.org/petition/BabyDNA2009.php