PETITION TO GOVERNOR PAWLENTY:

I OPPOSE REPEAL OF MN’S GENETIC PRIVACY LAW & the repeal of Parent Consent Requirements (2009-2010 “Baby DNA Warehouse” bill)

I, the undersigned citizen oppose HF 1341 (Thissen(D)/Abeler(R)), SF 1478 (Lynch(D)/Rosen(R)) and because the legislation written & proposed by the MN Dept. of Health (MDH):

• Eliminates Genetic Privacy Rights at Birth. If passed, the Minnesota Genetic Privacy Law (M.S. 13.386) will no longer protect the genetic information of newborn citizens or baby DNA taken at birth for government newborn genetic testing — HF 1341, p. 1, lines 21-24.

• Eliminates Written Informed Consent Requirements for Government Storage and Use of DNA from all newborn citizens: The bill exempts MDH collection, storage, use, and sharing of newborn DNA from 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 baby blood & DNA is taken, warehoused, and used for genetic research.

• Enables Genetic Research on Children—and Adults 18 yrs. later—without Consent: Unless parents of newborns understand what’s happening and object, their baby’s blood & DNA will become State property, warehoused & used indefinitely without consent.


• 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 that 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/BabyDNA2010.php