Dear [REPORTER’S NAME],

I am a resident of [YOUR TOWN AND STATE].

Given that September is Newborn Screening Awareness Month and that lifesaving newborn screening legislation is currently before Congress, I thought I’d share with you a story about how newborn screening impacted my child’s life.

Newborn screening is a test that detects rare genetic conditions at birth through a heel prick blood test. With [ANNUAL BIRTHS IN YOUR STATE] babies born in [YOUR STATE] each year, this program saves [ESTIMATED DIAGNOSES – SEE RARESCREENING.ORG] lives annually. When my child was born three years ago, she was diagnosed through newborn screening with a rare disease called MPS1. While there is no cure for MPS1, treatment is available for this disease that can cause developmental delays, an enlarged spleen, joint deformities and many other symptoms.

Thanks to newborn screening, we could understand the disease before she shows symptoms, so we don’t waste years waiting for a diagnosis when every day counts.

Parents with children born in other states are not as fortunate, since MPS1 is not screened in all 50 states.

If the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act is not passed before September 30th, this critical public health program which has helped millions of babies since it began decades ago, could be threatened.

I have included a photo of me and my child from the day she was born.

I see that you have covered health issues before, so I thought you might be interested in bringing light to this important issue. If you would like to discuss it, please contact me at [YOUR EMAIL AND PHONE].

Sincerely,

[NAME, EMAIL, PHONE]