

**Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang**


Manila, January 22, 2003

DR. CARMENCITA D. PADILLA
Director
Institute of Human Genetics
National Institutes of Health
University of the Philippines
P.O. Box 297 Manila Central Post Office
Manila

M a d a m :

I have the honor to transmit, for information and guidance, a certified copy of Proclamation No. 540 dated January 20, 2004 entitled **“DECLARING THE 1ST WEEK OF OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS “NATIONAL NEWBORN SCREENING WEEK.”**

Very truly yours,


MARIANITO M. DIMAANDAL
Director III, Records Office

gld.

MALACAÑANG
Manila

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROCLAMATION NO. 540

**DECLARING THE 1st WEEK OF OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS "NATIONAL
NEWBORN SCREENING WEEK"**

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Philippines provides that the "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, pursuant to that mandate, the "Early Childhood Care and Development Act" (ECCD), was enacted, declaring it to be the policy of the state to "*promote the rights of children to survival, development and special protection with full recognition of the nature of childhood and its special needs*";

WHEREAS, ECCD aims to establish an efficient system for early identification, prevention, referral and intervention for developmental disorders and disabilities in early childhood;

WHEREAS, newborn screening is an essential public health strategy that enables the early detection of several inheritable conditions which, if untreated, could lead to mental retardation and even death;

WHEREAS, early diagnosis and treatment of these conditions can result in the normal growth and development of the affected individual;

WHEREAS, newborn screening, which has long been an integral part of routine newborn care in many countries, is currently being administered only to two percent (2%) of Filipino newborns;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to conduct a national information campaign in order to create public awareness on newborn screening and generate full support for it from both public and private sectors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the First Week of October of each year as the "***National Newborn Screening Week***" with the Department of Health (DOH) and the



Institute of Human Genetics of the National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines to serve as the national focal points for purposes of commemorating this event and ensuring that information about the availability and benefits of newborn screening is expeditiously and widely disseminated to the general public.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 20TH day of Jan , in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

Gloria Arroyo

By the President:



Alberto G. Romulo
ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Executive Secretary



AR
PGMA Halogram # 23899

CERTIFIED COPY.

AS A REPUTED MEDICAL ASSOCIATION