

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 13, 2014

The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

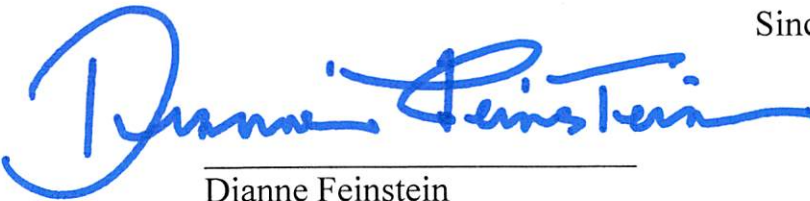
We write today with concern about the issue of infants born prematurely, particularly those that suffer from the disease necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), where portions of the intestine are destroyed due to infection and inflammation.

This devastating disease that affects nearly 10 percent of very low birth weight babies can have a mortality rate of 50 percent depending on severity. We are particularly concerned about the Medicaid population, which has a disproportionate percentage of premature births.

It is our understanding that medical interventions exist which could significantly reduce the risk of infants developing NEC. We ask the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to coordinate with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to determine best practices for prevention of NEC. We would also like an update on what CMS is currently doing in this area to reduce the risk of NEC.

We appreciate your attention to this important issue, and your efforts to improve health outcomes of our most vulnerable children.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Susan Collins
United States Senator

Cc: Tom Frieden, Director, CDC



Tom Harkin
United States Senator



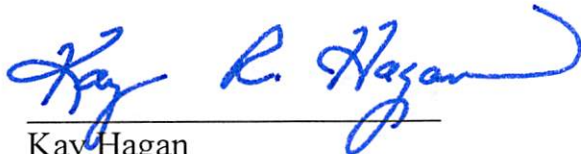
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Michael Bennet
United States Senator



Kay Hagan
United States Senator