

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATOR PETERSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend LSU Health New Orleans' Sunyoung Kim, PhD, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the School of Medicine, for her work in developing and testing a screening system for necrotizing enterocolitis affecting preterm infants.

WHEREAS, necrotizing enterocolitis is a disease that affects one out of eight infants who are extremely premature and carries an extremely high mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, this disease presents a three-to-four times greater risk for male, African-American infants who are born prematurely and suffer from extremely low birth weight; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has one of the highest rates of preterm births in the United States and has a large African-American population; and

WHEREAS, diagnostic tests are critical for disease management and better outcomes; however, current tests have poor success in identifying necrotizing enterocolitis; and

WHEREAS, the current gold standard diagnostic method is X-ray, which has a true positive rate of only forty-four percent; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kim's noninvasive Neonatal DDx biomarker panel, a collaborative effort between physicians, nurses, and researchers, which is performed on stool samples, identifies ninety-three percent true positives and ninety-five percent true negatives in diagnosing the disease that affects about six thousand premature infants every year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, by personalizing medical management of infants, Dr. Kim's technology may prevent one thousand infants from dying each year, with an added benefit of potentially saving U.S. insurance companies seven hundred twenty million dollars in health care costs; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depends, in great measure, upon the dedication of people like Dr. Sunyoung Kim who use their considerable talents to further medical research and help Louisiana's tiniest and most vulnerable citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. Sunyoung Kim for her work in developing and testing a lifesaving screening system for premature infants and does hereby wish her continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Sunyoung Kim.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE