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Subject: Gov. Nikki Haley signs Emerson Rose bill

Attachments: Emerson Rose 8-7-13.jpeg

Gov. Nikki Haley signs Emerson Rose bill

S.341 confirming South Carolina's commitment to healthy babies

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Governor Nikki Haley joined with Senator Alexander, representatives from the American Heart Association, and Emerson Rose's parents, Jason and Susan Smith of Clemson, today in a ceremonial bill signing for S.341, the Emerson Rose bill. S.341 requires birthing facilities in South Carolina to perform a pulse oximetry test on every newborn child between 24 and 48 hours of life.

"While I am blessed to be a governor, I am also blessed to be a mom and this bill pulls on my heart," said Gov. Nikki Haley. "Due to Jason and Susan Smith's dedication to making a difference and the action we are taking today, Emerson Rose's name is going to live on and positively influence the health of babies across the state."

Performing a pulse oximetry test can give caregivers insight into the lungs and heart of newborns and head-off complications not detected by ultrasound.

The Emerson Rose bill continues Gov. Haley's commitment to keeping South Carolina's babies healthy – from improved access to care for expecting mothers, to reducing elective pre-term deliveries, to ensuring that expecting mothers with drug or alcohol problems get the treatment they need.

For video of the governor's full remarks, click here: <http://goo.gl/TLA2fH>

Bill Summary –

- Bill requires for birthing facilities to perform a pulse oximetry test on every newborn child between 24 and 48 hours of life, or as late as possible if the newborn is discharged before 24 hours.
- Intent is to catch congenital heart defects that were not detected via ultrasound prior to birth.
- Bill is named after Emerson Rose Smith who was born with a congenital heart defect in 2011.
- Passed Senate(43-0), House (106-0)

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