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Janet Thomas, MD, Co-Project Director
Kathryn Hassell, MD, Co-Project Director
Mountain States Regional Genetics Network
9811 Jollyville Road, Suite 280
Austin, Texas 78759

Dear Drs. Thomas and Hassell,

We are pleased to write this letter of support of your application for the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) funding opportunity for Regional Genetics Networks (HRSA-20-046). As the current regional genetics Network for the mountain states region (Mountain States Regional Genetics Network, MSRGN) you have done valuable work to increase access to genetic services and provide education about genetic disorders. MSRGN has been successful in developing and sustaining collaboration to improve access to genetic services within the region and has supported innovative activities to strengthen the newborn screening and genetic services delivery systems, especially to the regions underserved populations.

In addition, MSRGN has facilitated long-term relationships between public health practitioners, clinical providers, and families in the region. Your efforts to strengthen long-term follow-up of children identified through newborn screening, introduce telemedicine and transitioning, educate professionals and consumers on genetic topics, and incorporate the consumer perspective into all aspects of decision-making have been valuable for the population of individuals with (or at risk for) genetic disorders and their families in your region.

Genetic Alliance, as the National Genetics Education and Family Support Center (NGEFSC), has partnered with the Regional Genetics Networks for over a decade and has provided ongoing support and guidance to their engagement efforts. The Expecting Health team of Genetic Alliance also offers unique educational resources and tools to address the objectives of this grant. As you are aware, we plan to submit an application to continue as the National Genetics Education and Family Support Program. If the proposal is successful, we look forward to a continued partnership with MSRGN to accomplish the goals and objectives of our respective projects. We look forward to helping link MSRGN members to genetics services, resources, and other supports and will also help disseminate resources and opportunities you share with us regarding family engagement in genetics services.

We are very supportive of MSRGN in its efforts to work with Genetic Alliance and with other partners to ensure that individuals have access to quality genetic services. Collaboration between our programs and activities would improve and maximize access to and education about genetic service to those who need it most.

We are pleased to collaborate with you in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



Natasha F. Bonhomme
CSO, Genetic Alliance
PI, National Genetics Education and Family Support Center

