Project Baby Dillo, patterned after similar successful efforts in California and Florida, aims to solve the problem of delayed diagnosis of genetic diseases by delivering timely whole genome sequencing (WGS) pilot data to demonstrate faster diagnoses, better health outcomes, and decreased cost of care for critically ill newborns in Texas.

- **FASTER DIAGNOSES**

WGS is an extraordinary technology that operates at once-unthinkable speed. It can help doctors diagnose a baby's problem in days. Speedy test results mean babies get the right care sooner. Standard methods of diagnosis for comparable disorders frequently take weeks or months.

- **BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES**

WGS improves the health outcomes of babies, delivering rapid diagnoses that lead to valuable changes in clinical management. Using the most comprehensive genomic test available, Project Baby Dillo will provide families with timely diagnostic information that reduces uncertainty and empowers them to make life-altering medical decisions which will reduce suffering and lead to better outcomes.

- **DECREASED COST OF CARE**

Because WGS is accurate and fast, hospitals will save money in useless tests not ordered, pointless operations not performed and days of waiting in expensive intensive care units (ICUs) not needed. Rapid precision medicine spends more on the right care and less on care that does not help. And in the middle of our current pandemic, this will free up precious medical resources for COVID-19 patients.

The Request: A $4 million funding request for a Project Baby Dillo Critically Ill Newborn Whole Genome Sequencing Demonstration.

- Will provide testing for at least 400 newborns to demonstrate improved clinical outcomes and costs saving associated with the utilization of Whole Genome Sequencing for low-income neonatal and pediatric intensive care patients.
- UTHealth Science Center in Houston will administer the project with clinical referral partner sites across the state.
- The sequencing will be provided by the Baylor College of Medicine Human Genome Sequencing Center.

Texas is a leader in whole genome sequencing. Working with UTHealth Science Center in Houston and Baylor College of Medicine, our participating hospitals and clinical referral partners are experienced and poised to conduct this project, and Texas doctors are excited to lead the way in proving the effectiveness in using whole genome sequencing to determine genetic conditions in infants.