

Kandy Kay Reilly
227 N. Hoadley Street
Naugatuck, CT 06770
(203) 723-4822

My name is Kandy Kay Reilly, I live in Naugatuck, and I'm testifying in support of bill #5926, for the issuance of a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth, on behalf of my husband-Chris, and our entire extended family.

In October 2005, after enduring 6 years of unexplained secondary infertility, we were overjoyed to learn we were finally expecting our second child. Although expecting a child is to be one of the happiest events that can happen in one's life, our pregnancy, after 9 months of joy and preparation, ended abruptly and in complete devastation.

On June 17, 2006 I awoke with uneasiness and in great concern for my pregnancy. Our daughter was quiet which was extremely unusual. My doctor instructed me to stop by the hospital for a quick check. At the hospital after what seemed like an eternity of trying to find her heartbeat my doctor, with tears in her eyes, confirmed the unimaginable—our daughter had died. Just two days prior I had an ultra sound and a routine dr.'s visit that showed our daughter alive and well. Then at 38 weeks, 9 months, our daughter was no longer alive.

It's important for me to tell you I received excellent pre-natal care. Regardless of all the testing and monitoring we went through our daughter had died.

I was then prescribed medication to induce labor. After enduring over 12 hours of labor our daughter Kamryn Kay Reilly was born at 12:41am on June 18, 2006-Father's Day.

During my induction I was shocked to learn that there would be no "Birth Certificate" issued from the State of Connecticut. I would receive only a fetal death certificate. I was unable to understand as I carried her for 9months and was in the process of laboring and my daughter was going to be **born**.

Kamy's birth was identical to that of my first daughter, Kaitlyn, except instead of tears of joy there were anguished tears of loss. My body knew I had given birth (along with the hospital and all the charges that were incurred for the birth of a baby). I endured 8 weeks of post-partum symptoms with both deliveries, from engorged breasts to episiotomy care yet my own state does not acknowledge her birth. There are two parts to Kamy's story, she died then she was born, but only her death is currently recognized. Her birth never existed. Kamy is not only our daughter; she is also a sister, a granddaughter, a great-granddaughter, a niece, a cousin, and was to be a play-mate to the countless number of children in our circle of friends.

Although I believe the current "Certificate of Stillbirth" that was put into policy in 2005 was a well meaning attempt to satisfy the need of a birth certificate it falls extremely short of meeting this need. First my hospital, doctors, and social workers were all

unaware of its existence. And secondly but most importantly it is nothing more than a commemorative death certificate.

This bill will give grieving parents the opportunity to receive a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth, an official state record that acknowledges the birth of our stillborn children, in a respectful, sympathetic, and compassionate way. I believe our families deserve this.

Thank you.



Kamryn Kay Reilly
(kamy)
June 18, 2006
Born Still.....But *Still* BORN

M.i.s.s. Foundation

MISSING ANGELS BILL FACT SHEET

- I. The bill establishes a "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth" as an **optional** document for families requesting and paying for it in our state;
- II. There is already a *death certificate* issued and *legislated final disposition at families' expense* for all stillborn babies in our state;
- III. Stillbirth is the unintentional death of an unborn baby who has *passed 20 completed gestational weeks* as defined by the NICHD. These are not early losses or abortions. Rather these are the births of dead babies;
- IV. Between 25,000-30,000 babies are stillborn in the U.S. each year, one in 100 pregnancies. Most occur at or near full term to otherwise apparently healthy babies;
- V. Other countries including the United Kingdom, Australia, and Ireland already issue certificates of birth for stillborn babies;
- VI. The bill has been passed in 21 U.S. states, and legislation is pending in more than five states;
- VII. A baby born at 19 weeks gestation, pre-viability, but who takes one breath is issued a Certificate of Live Birth and is counted in infant mortality rates. Conversely, a baby born at 40 weeks gestation and past viability can die just one second prior to birth, will only receive a death certificate, and is not counted in infant mortality statistics;
- VIII. It is not only about dignity and validation, but also about maternal health and newborn well-being, epidemiology, and research. It is the right thing to do for women in our state and their families.

For more information visit www.missingangelsbill.org
Or contact your local representative of the MISS Foundation

Contact: Valerie M. Geremia (203) 468-7944
(203) 376-0257 (cell) SB/HB Number #5926
Kandy K. Reilly (203) 723-4822
Kelly Weber (860) 236-1695

"It is always the right time to do the right thing."
Martin Luther King, Jr.