

## Bonhomme, Penny

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**From:** Fournier, Kelley  
**Sent:** Friday, March 02, 2012 8:20 AM  
**To:** PHC Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for March 7th Public Hearing -- SB 56

**Attachments:** MarieHatcher.PHTestimony.Mar7.docx; DebbiePrince.PHTestimony.Mar7.docx;  
MelissaServiss.PHTestimony.Mar7.doc

To Whom It May Concern,

Attached please find three documents, all of which are testimony from Sen. McLachlan's constituents regarding SB 56, AAC Pulse Oximetry Screening for Newborn Infants, which will be heard at the March 7th Public Hearing. Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at extension 0068.

Best,

Kelley A. Fournier

Legislative Aide to Senator Michael A. McLachlan  
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MarieHatcher DebbiePrince MelissaServiss  
Testimony.Mar7 Testimony.Mar7 Testimony.Mar7

February 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

In January of 2003 I gave birth to what I thought was a healthy child. I had no reason to think otherwise, I already had a healthy 4 year old at home and a normal pregnancy.

I took my baby home from the hospital after 48 hours of his birth, still thinking he was going to live a healthy, uncomplicated life. At 5 weeks old, during a routine well baby visit, a heart murmur was detected. I was immediately sent to a local pediatric cardiologist and from there our lives were changed forever.

Word, such as, congestive heart failure, saturation levels, Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome were being thrown at us left and right.

After many tests, it was discovered that our baby was born with many complex congenital heart defects. He was operated on many times, the first being at 6 weeks old. The doctor's weren't quite sure if they could begin to repair some of his defects because he was not diagnosed at birth.

My son is now 9 years old, has had 2 open heart surgeries, many cardiac catherizations , and ultimately, a heart transplant. I have become very educated on the workings of the heart, cardiac medications, procedures and tests. The first and simplest test I learned about was pulse ox testing. It is a simple, non-invasive, easy, inexpensive test that shows how much oxygen is running through the body. If you can put a Band-Aid on, you can administer a pulse ox test. If this simple Band-Aid with a little red light on it was put on my son when he was born, the doctors would have been aware that his saturation levels were in the 70's, as opposed to the normal 100 reading. I would not have been sent home with a baby in congestive heart failure, and although he would have still faced surgical repair, the risks would have been far less.

Most people who enter a hospital for the first time, whether it be via the emergency room or for a procedure, almost always have their saturation levels checked. Why should this be different for a baby entering a hospital for the first time upon their birth?