

Support for Bill #RHB 56

Dear Public Health Committee:

I am here today for my son Gage who passed unexpectedly from an undetected heart defect. When I first found out I was having a son I was very blessed that he would be passing on my last name. Everything was right on target with the ultrasounds they were normal with no concerns. My son seemed to be a normal young boy growing up but that came to a halt on January 24, 2004 when my son suddenly passed away at home. At this time my world came crashing down it felt there was no reason to live but thank God I have a precious daughter to keep me thriving to survive. When we found out that my son passed from an undetected heart defect I was really confused on what and why this happened. He was diagnosed with Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) in his case his coronary artery was nonexistent. To this day I believe this could have been prevented if the Pulse Oximetry Test was available at the time of his birth.

Congenital Heart Defects (CHD) is the #1 birth defect affecting 40,000 babies annually. A simple solution to this problem would be to have a simple Pulse Oximetry Test which costs approximately \$1. So to me this is cost effective and non invasive means of testing for CHD. I hope at the end of this that you will support this Bill. Bill #RHB 56, requiring Pulse Oximetry Testing for every newborn it will save lives. Please let Connecticut join New Jersey and Indiana as the current states with this important law and the many other states moving quickly to mandate this simple test to benefit newborns throughout the United States.