



3/5/14

Connecticut General Assembly  
Commerce Committee  
Room 110, Capitol Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Members of the Commerce Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

I began my Connecticut Invention Convention experience in 7<sup>th</sup> grade after a summer in which I got the hiccups nearly every day. Refusing to accept that there were no treatments for the hiccups, I experimented in my kitchen for months. While this was unfortunate for my mother (and her new stove), this initial research eventually became Hiccupops; lollipops that can stop the hiccups. I worked hard to develop a working prototype that had actual scientific merit, and entered it my school's local Invention Convention. I was then offered the opportunity to present my invention at the state-level Invention Convention at UCONN, and that experience has changed my life. Through the CIC, I was awarded a patent search and filing, and on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013, I was granted my first patent at age 15.

By participating in the Invention Convention, I received the encouragement and validation to see that there was the potential for Hiccupops to become a legitimate, marketable product. Now, as a Next Step Inventor, the CIC has connected me with the people, resources, and support to make Hiccupops has an actual start-up business. I am proud to have been able to represent the CIC and the state of Connecticut while ringing the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange with the Startup America organization, and Hiccupops have now also been featured in the New York times, Inc Magazine, and on CBS, Yahoo, and Nickelodeon.

While the past has been a success, I am excited to think about the future prospects of both my business and the Connecticut Invention Convention. For Hiccupops, we are nearing commercial-scale production. And we're not looking at the product as just a candy—Hiccupops have potential use in the medical field where we will be investigating Hiccupops as a potential treatment for patients who get hiccups as a side effect of chemotherapy and dialysis. For the Connecticut Invention Convention, with your support and funding, more schools will have the chance to bring CIC's curriculum of innovation to their students. The CIC program has been transformational for me, and I am here to ask that you consider giving more students the same chance to make their own world-changing discovery.

Thank you,

Mallory Kievman  
Founder, Hiccupops