

Doug Blalock HB 5144

To Whom It May Concern;

I had never heard of CMV before February 1, 2014. I learned of it in a hospital visit with some friends. That visit should have been a joyous occasion with our friends, celebrating the arrival of their second child. My friends, like me, had not heard of congenital CMV before then. They lost their daughter on February 12 due to CMV related complications. One can discover with only a few minutes of on-line research, that CMV is a virus, common and not harmful among toddlers, that is transmitted by exchange of body fluids. In those same few minutes of research it becomes clear that there are simple precautionary measures that pregnant women can implement to lower the incidence of infection. Women who want to expand their families deserve to know that there is a risk of infection and that there are simple measures they can take to significantly reduce that risk. **I support Bill HB 5147 for CMV awareness, and CMV education for all pregnant women and CMV testing and treatment for newborns !**

Sincerely yours,

Doug Blalock