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Dear Sirs:

I write to support Connecticut Bill: CT HB51474199, which would establish a newborn screening program for cytomegalovirus and develop a public education program regarding the dangers of congenital CMV and the methods of prevention of CMV.

I have studied this topic as an investigator for many years and know that prevention of maternal infection with CMV is in most cases easily preventable using hygienic intervention, if only women were aware of CMV, its effects on the fetus, and how to reduce their risk of infection.

This bill also directs medical practitioners to test infants, for whom hearing tests indicate hearing loss, for CMV and inform the parents of those infants about the possible birth defects that CMV can cause as well as any appropriate interventions. Last year, the Utah state legislature unanimously passed similar legislation (HB81), which is currently being implemented by their Department of Health.

The hearing aspect of the bill is also important. Hearing deficit is common after a CMV infection before birth. Numerous studies has soon that are multiple means of post-natal intervention that reduce or eliminate the consequences of deafness, particularly speech development.

I urge you to approve this legislation.

Thank for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stuart P. Adler

Stuart P. Adler M.D.