

Anne Whitney-Obousy 5147
To Whom It May Concern;

My friends had not heard of congenital CMV before their second child was born on January 31, 2014. They lost her on February 12 due to CMV related complications. It only takes a few minutes of on-line research to discover 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.

In addition to having friends who have personally experienced the heartbreak of congenital CMV, I also see other families going through the same tragic journey in my job as a pediatrician. Not only does it take precious little ones from their families, but Congenital CMV is also the leading preventable viral cause of developmental disabilities, including blindness, deafness, learning disabilities, etc. Measures to reduce the risk of pregnant women contracting CMV will help prevent these deaths and disabilities.

I support Bill HB 5147 for CMV awareness, and CMV education for all pregnant women and CMV testing and treatment for newborns!

Sincerely yours,
Anne Whitney-Obousy

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