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Re: Raised Bill No. 5147 “An act concerning newborn screening for globoid cell leukodystrophy and cytomegalovirus and establishing a public education program for cytomegalovirus”

Dear Members of the Connecticut Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly,
This letter is in support of the Bill No. 5147 which includes

Section 1

(b) newborn screening for several very important newborn illnesses amenable to early treatment and interventions, including but not limited to, cytomegalovirus (CMV) in any newborn infant who fails a newborn hearing screening

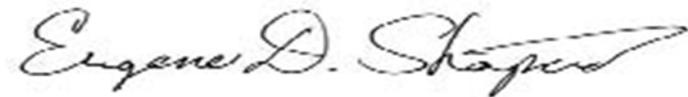
Section 2

- (a) to establish a public education program to inform pregnant women and women who may become pregnant, about a common virus, called cytomegalovirus (CMV), which is a leading cause of birth defects and deafness in this country.
- (b) to provide an education program about testing and treating newborns diagnosed with congenital CMV

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is the most common cause of hearing loss and neurodevelopmental disabilities in this country, and clinical trials have now shown preventive measures for pregnant women and treatment measures for CMV infected newborns are beneficial.

A similar CMV education bill was recently passed into law in the State of Utah in 2013. Please support this very important public health bill for Connecticut!

Sincerely,



Eugene D. Shapiro, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics, Epidemiology and Investigative Medicine