

Farah Armstrong HB 5147

Dear Members of the Connecticut Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly,

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

I had never heard of congenital CMV until January 31, 2014 when my daughter, Madeline Leigh Armstrong was born and the Neonatologist informed us that they were fairly certain that she was CMV positive. We went through 10 grueling days of testing, platelet transfusions, hearing screens, vision exams, MRI's, and many other procedures while in the NICU at Memorial Hermann in Houston, TX. Blood and urine tests confirmed our worst fears that Maddie did indeed have congenital CMV. After 10 days we were informed that Maddie's condition was terminal and we had to begin making arrangements to bring our precious baby girl home on hospice care. This is something that NO mother should ever have to face. Madeline spent 2 days with us at home, until she passed away on February 12th due to complications from congenital CMV.

Unfortunately, I was not informed about this virus prior to or during my pregnancy. I am deeply saddened that I did not have the opportunity to follow simple mitigation measures to prevent this virus from claiming the life of my baby. My life is forever changed by the loss of my daughter and my biggest hope is that future mother's will not have to endure this agony.

As an individual who has been personally touched by the devastating effects of congenital CMV, I am excited and pleased to support this important legislative effort.

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,
Farah Armstrong