

Megan Whittlemore HB 5147

I have had 4 pregnancies of my own, and I had not heard of congenital CMV before my friend lost her second child, Madeline Leigh, on February 12th due to CMV related complications. Madeline was only 12 days old.

It only takes a few minutes of on-line research to discover that CMV is a common virus 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 lost a baby as well to a condition that could not have been prevented or mitigated. It is incomprehensible to me that mothers are not made aware of something that has such devastating effects, while there are simple ways of reducing the risk of those effects.

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

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