

Rebecca Mitchell Ghazi  
HB 5147

February 26, 2014

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.

Our family had not heard of congenital CMV before my granddaughter was born on January 31, 2014. We lost her on February 12 due to CMV related complications. Everyone that we have spoken to about Congenital CMV has never heard of this common virus. The public deserves to be educated and screened for the CMV. We have learned 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. As an individual who has been personally touched by the devastating effects of congenital CMV, I 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!

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

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Mitchell Ghazi