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Testimony of Stephanie Bolstridge:

IN SUPPORT OF HB 5147, AN ACT CONCERNING NEWBORN SCREENING FOR GLOBOID CELL LEUKODYSTROPHY AND CYTOMEGALOVIRUS AND ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR CYTOMEGALORVIRUS

Before the Public Health Committee
February 28, 2014

As a concerned citizen of Connecticut and mother of a child who passed before birth with congenital CMV (cytomegalovirus), I am reaching out to you to request your support for HB 5147, "An act concerning newborn screening for globoid cell leukodystrophy and cytomegalovirus and establishing a public education program for cytomegalovirus".

Because of my child's exposure to CMV in utero, she had significant damage that caused her to be stillborn. Had I been informed of CMV during my pregnancy and about preventative measures I could have taken during my pregnancy, I could have possibly saved my child's life.

HB 5147 will amend the Connecticut Health Code and direct the Department of Health to establish a public education program regarding the dangers of congenital CMV and the methods of prevention of CMV. This bill also directs medical practitioners to test infants, for whom hearing tests indicate hearing loss, for CMV and inform the parents of those infants about the possible disabilities that congenital CMV can cause as well as my appropriate interventions.

I strongly request your support for HB 5147.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Bolstridge