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RE: HB 5525 – An Act Concerning Cytomegalovirus POSITION: Support

Dear Honorable Committee Chair Representative Gerratana, Chair Representative Ritter, and the distinguished members of the Public Health Committee,

I encourage you to support HB 5525 because I believe in the importance of cytomegalovirus (CMV) education to women and the early identification of children with disabilities.

My son, Logan, was born with congenital CMV in 2009. I was diagnosed with a primary infection of the virus when I was just 20 weeks pregnant. I had never heard of the virus. Once Logan was born, we found out he was profoundly deaf in his left ear. He received a cochlear implant in that ear when he was 4 years old. He had a mild to moderate loss in his right ear until he was 5 and a half years old. He lost all of his remaining hearing overnight because of the virus. He is waiting to receive his second implant. Over the years Logan has had many issues with sensory processing as well as developmental issues. He has been seeing a physical therapist for different reasons since he was 1. The hardest part of everything that we have been through is that I still think about how different our lives could have been if I had just known about the virus. I think it is so important to know the risks of something that could be so life threatening in some cases. I urge you to vote yes for HB 5525 so that many women in Connecticut can be given the chance to prepare for and prevent their child from being born with congenital CMV.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Leah Prescott