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February 20, 2015

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.

While pregnant with my second child, I took many steps to minimize risk to my unborn
baby. Never would I have thought that the cold I came down with could have done
irreversible, and eventually fatal, damage to my child. I contracted CMV during my first
trimester and unfortunately passed it onto my daughter. I was never educated about
CMV and my doctor's did not even mention it as a possibility when I came down with
cold symptoms during my pregnancy. It was not until an ultrasound 20 weeks into my
pregnancy where we were told of irreversible brain damage to our beautiful daughter.
She ended up passing away at 32 weeks and was never given a chance at life. Had I
known about CMV, I would have been more careful. Had my doctor's been thinking
more about CMV, they might have identified this sooner. Please inform all women about
CMV.

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

Sincerely,

Stephanie Bolstridge