

**Gaetano, Carolyn**

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**From:** Christine Petit <christinepaluf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 10:58 AM  
**To:** GAETestimony  
**Subject:** H.B. 5174 - An Act establishing a Children's State Flower

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of establishing the 4 O'Clock as the CT Children's State Flower in memory of Michaela Rose Petit. HB 5174 is a lovely piece of legislation that would focus on something positive for our children. We live in increasingly troubled times, and children's needs are more important than ever as we move forward. Giving them something that would become a source of pride for them, and a sign of encouragement is a simple choice that takes little to no effort to accomplish.

Michaela Petit's example as a quiet leader, servant of society and giving, civic-minded youth is exactly what we need more of in this state.

The 4 o'clocks are part of a number of wonderful science programs in schools around the state of CT, and at the CT Science Center. As such they teach our youth, especially young women, that it is important and acceptable to excel in the STEM fields of Science and Math. This would make a statement from our leaders that they, too, believe that girls have a valuable contribution to make to our world, and that they are supported all the way up to their government leaders.

My husband, Dr. William A. Petit, Jr. is of course a proponent of this bill, and I support his leadership on this issue as he has been such an incredible example in the days and years since the tragedy that took Michaela, her sister Hayley and her mother Jennifer; all shining examples of service to others.

The legacy that these women leave is one of leadership toward good things, toward helping others, helping ourselves, supporting those in need and especially important, that no matter how young you are, or how limited your resources, you can gather those around you and create something larger than yourself to make an impact on your surroundings. It is important that our youth know that they can make a difference, and these small flowers represent that strength.

They are simple to grow, lovely and fragrant, and are a great seed for teaching about genetics and testing the effects that small changes can have. This is an ideal choice for our children, a vibrant, beautiful and hearty flower that rises strong and tall in full sun, with the water and care that all living things require.

I encourage you to do something memorable and positive with your time in office. This is a simple vote of yes, that doesn't affect any bottom line, doesn't draw from the coffers, but simply offers hope and encouragement to the youngest and most in need in our state. Please plant the seed of encouragement and positivity.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Christine Petit

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Christine Petit

Le Petit Studio

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