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Testimony for Public Hearing
Government Administration and Elections Committee
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Proposed H.B. No. 5174 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHILDREN'S STATE FLOWER.

Thank you for giving me the honor to speak with you today. I am here in support of the proposed bill #5174 to establish Michaela Petit's four o'clocks as the children's state flower. I think you should consider this act as an example of Michaela showing young people like me, how to be nice, kind and to think of the people around them and not just themselves. Some examples of Michaela's kindness are raising money for charities and volunteering her time to helping people in need instead of doing something for herself. Not many kids I know think of helping others in need like Michaela has done. This is why I think Michaela is a special person and should be honored. The love for her favorite flower, the four o'clocks, should be a symbol of her kindness and love for strangers. It also should be a symbol for kids like me who want to do kind things like Michaela has done.

The four o'clocks that people have planted all over Connecticut are a living memorial in memory of Michaela. Michaela's generosity was spread through the air because many people didn't know her and they are still planting four o'clocks 8 years later in honor of her. As of 2010, there were more than 5,000 four o'clocks planted from Michaela's original garden at her house. Now, there is a memorial of four o'clocks where her house use to be.

In 2014, The Green Team from Lincoln Elementary in New Britain, planted a bunch of four o'clock seeds at Walnut Hill Park in honor of Michaela. Doing this made me feel good because I like planting things. I felt like I was Michaela because she planted just a few of the four o'clocks and now they have grown into many. This is what I did with The Green Team at Walnut Hill Park.

The four o'clocks are a pretty flower just like Michaela was inside and out. I know that I have never met her but I have read good things about her and know what a great person she was by helping total strangers and I want to be just like her.

Please consider Bill #5174 to honor Michaela and to make me proud to live in Connecticut. We will have our own children's flower that makes adults and kids like me smile when they see them.

Thank you for your time.

Kelley Crittenden
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