

February 23, 2015

To the committee on Government, Administrations and Elections,

Legislating a children's state flower would be a powerful tool to educate and empower future generations.

Michaela Petit was one of my Sunday school students for five years. We worshiped together almost every Sunday for the 11 years of her short life. She was a sweet, kind and introspective soul, wise beyond her years. One of her favorite quotes was "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

This quote now holds a very special meaning for me and many who loved Michaela.

Inspired by this quote the Petit Family Foundation has made remarkable achievements in state.

I was excited to hear that the four o'clock flower may become the state children's flower. I think it is a wonderful idea. We need to encourage our children to get involved in government, farming and the sciences. Children could have many opportunities to be hands on and do good works, planting and creating gardens. The flower is appropriate for children; it is a fun flower as it blooms right on time at 4 o'clock.

The Petit Family Foundation has contributed generously to many programs in the state. Highlighting this flower would be advantageous to the foundation and the state. It is interesting that Michaela's home was in Cheshire, the bedding plant capital of the state.

As the first state to recognize a children's state flower Connecticut could set a nationwide trend to promote education in the sciences. It may have the additional benefits of improving the health of our children as they are encouraged to enjoy gardening activities.

Michaela can no longer speak for herself, but her flower can speak volumes for the many ways our children may be encouraged to make great changes for future generations.

The four o'clock children's state flower will bring about positive change.

"And a little child will lead them." Isaiah 11:6

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Kimberly Erickson