

Testimony

For

H.B. 5174

A Proposal to Establish a Children's State Flower

My name is Peter Ciparelli. I am the library director of the Killingly Public Library in Danielson, Connecticut. We are well acquainted with Michaela's Garden and The Petit Family Foundation as we have a Michaela's Garden space on the library grounds. It was dedicated last September with Dr. Petit and the various representatives of the community in attendance.

As a community member, father, and grandfather I appreciate the fact all too well that children need a voice, representation, and to be honored for whom they are and that gardens propagating seeds hire and teach children about horticulture. I feel that this is a perfect way to remember Michaela. It is also a heartfelt way to remember any child that has left us. Four o'clocks uniquely open at night and fill the air with their wonderful fragrance. It is inspiring to choose this resilient flower to represent all our children. Please remember the Petit Foundation promotes women in science as well as those affected by violence, also.

I ask you, what more appropriate way to both remember and honor Michaela than by choosing the flower she loved to represent the state?

Thank you for this opportunity to state my case.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Ciparelli