

Testimony
Sarah Oliver
Agriscience Teacher
Bill H.B. 5174

February 23, 2015

To whom it may concern;

My name is Sarah Oliver and I am an agriscience teacher at Suffield High School and previously at Glastonbury High School. For the past 3 years, I have been working with the Petit Family Foundation and with the Michaela's Garden Project. I have had the privilege of teaching my students about the art and science of horticulture as students raise many types of plants in our school greenhouse. The Michaela's Garden project came to us as a unique opportunity to allow our students a chance to help others by simply growing a flower and sharing their knowledge and meaning of the flower with others. Three years ago, our FFA chapter decided to help with the Michaela's Garden Project with growing a couple hundred seedlings of the flowers that would be used to raise donations. This past year in the third season of this project, our students grew over 2,500 Four O'clock seedlings that have helped the organization raise funds for their endeavors. This collaboration has been a wonderful community outreach for the students and we have been fortunate to have Dr. Petit and other visitors come into the classroom to work with the students. The students continue to be touched by the impact they were able to make by growing this meaningful flower and have since spread the word about the importance of the project. As an educator, I hope that as I teach these students, I am more importantly guiding them to be good citizens and leaders. I feel that the Four O'clock flower and the meaning that it possesses has helped my students grow as caring citizens. I urge you to consider naming the Four O'clock flower as the state children's flower of Connecticut and passing bill H.B. 5174 for these reasons.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah-Jean Oliver
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