

**To:** Connecticut General Assembly

Legislative Office Building

300 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, CT 06106

**From:** Scott Morris

382 Newtown Turnpike

Redding, CT 06896

**Re:** H.B. 5174 CT State Children's Flower

February 20, 2015

Dear General Assembly,

My name is Scott Morris and I am writing testimony to you today in regards to H.B. 5174. This bill aims to name the Four O'Clocks as the Connecticut State children's flower. The deadly home invasion that took the life of Michaela Petit, her mom and sisters inspired the start of the Petit Foundation. One of the goals of this foundation is to get this bill passed. Some might ask 'why do we need a children's state flower?'

The symbolism of this bill and action is to memorialize Michaela and other children that have left us. The action is to provide other children with a voice, representation and to be honored. Gardens throughout the state have been established to propagate these seeds. These gardens employ and teach children about horticulture and funds raised through the sale of seeds are used by the Petit Foundation to fund scholarships, especially for women in sciences, to improve the lives of those with chronic illnesses and to support efforts to protect and help those affected by violence.

This bill will remember and honor Michaela by choosing a flower that she loved to represent our state. This flower opens at night and fills the air with a wonderful fragrance and is very hardy. This bill will also be a wonderful way to represent the children of Connecticut! I hope you give this bill serious consideration and send a message about how Connecticut has a voice for its children!

Thank you for your time and concern,

Scott C. Morris