

Bill H.B. 5174

Proposal to Establish the Michaela Petit Four-O-Clock as the Children's state flower

Wednesday 2/25 1:15 pm

Testimony: Beverly Lonero

Dear State Legislative Committee and State Representative Al Adinolfi;

I am in favor of establishing Michaela Petit's Four-O-Clock as the children's state flower, as a beautiful tribute to a lovely young girl whose life ended so tragically, and an inspiration to our Connecticut young people to grow into her example of kindness and compassion for years to come.

I have worked for the Petit Family foundation since its inception, and strongly support their meaningful goals. I did not know Michaela in life, but she has visited me in dreams – her message is always very clear; to open my heart to offer kindness and beauty in every way I can, spreading her message on to others and encouraging them to be the change they want to see in their world.

I believe the Four-O'Clock flower is the perfect essence of childhood beauty and innocence – a little bit shy, just opening late in the day with lavish, prolific blooms in a variety of colors and patterns, representative of the cultural differences of children in our state – yet together they harmonize and grow to spread beauty and fragrance in our gardens.

These flowers are easily grown, exiting their season with a notable seed to harvest and replant year after year, perfect to use in developing a family planting and garden care tradition just like Michaela shared with her father. In a time where many children isolate themselves with focus on a computer screen – we can create an opportunity for them to get back to the beauty of nature and sharing simple, meaningful time to create lasting beauty.

I thank you whole-heartedly for your consideration.

Best Regards,  
Beverly Lonero  
5 Dogwood Lane  
Farmington, CT