February 22, 2015

Bill: H.B. 5174

A Symbol of Hope

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope." –Lady Bird Johnson

As there is beauty in flowers, there is beauty in children alike. A simple uniqueness to both come with time, nurturing and an abundance of love. Many flowers symbolize many different things, and for the four o'clock flower, this meaning can be interpreted many ways. This beautiful flower blooms during the night in silence, and to me signifies hope for a new day. I believe Michaela Petit saw the same through this flower, as it was her favorite. Michaela was one of the few children who understood and enjoyed flowers at a young age, and I am sure she enjoyed planting them as well. Many children do not have this opportunity to learn about how wonderful horticulture is, and even fewer seem to enjoy the love of flowers.

I attended an agricultural high school in Connecticut, which taught all students how important not only horticulture is but how important agriculture is to the world. Many of these students were just learning the beauty of agriculture, which is unfortunate for them to miss the beauty earlier in life.

With four o'clock flowers as Connecticut's Children's Flower, we can work together to promote horticulture for children, so that many others can see just how important horticulture is to the world at a young age. And what a better way to honor Michaela and her love for horticulture than with her favorite flower. These flowers can be planted not only to teach Connecticut's children about horticulture, but can also be a symbol for the children we have lost. With these four o'clocks hope can be regrown along with the flowers. A simple act I know Michaela would have loved.

Respectfully Submitted,

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