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RE: HB 5525 – An Act Concerning Cytomegalovirus

POSITION: Support

Dear Honorable Committee Chair Representative Gerratana, Chair Representative Ritter, and the distinguished members of the Public Health Committee,

I encourage you to support HB 5525 because I believe in the importance of cytomegalovirus (CMV) education to women and the early identification of children with disabilities.

(Introduce yourself and briefly explain your connection to CMV here – family, friend, neighbor, physician, teacher, therapist, etc.

Examples:

- My niece was born with congenital CMV in 2005. Her early months and years were so difficult for our family, but we have tried to maximize her potential and give her the best care that we can. When we learned about congenital CMV after she was born, we were shocked that we had never heard of it and that steps could have been taken to possibly prevent her exposure to CMV before birth.
- I have had three pregnancies during which I took many steps to minimize risk to my unborn babies. I had not heard of CMV until my neighbor's son was diagnosed. Had I known about CMV, I would have changed my behavior while pregnant. Please inform all women about CMV.
- As a special education teacher, I work with many children with disabilities who could have benefited from early intervention services if their disabilities had been identified sooner. Based on the progressive nature of many complications associated with CMV, I believe that screening babies for CMV is important.)

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

