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HB 5525

February 18, 2015

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.

I have had two friends contract CMV during pregnancy.

One had finally become pregnant with twins after years of fertility treatment. She then contracted CMV at 15 weeks and lost both babies.

My other friend contracted the virus later in her pregnancy and, thankfully, her daughter was successfully delivered. However, her little girl has lived with some challenges due to the virus such as hearing loss, motor delays, health issues and autism.

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

Stacey Sears