

March 24, 2022

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Flexer and Representative Fox, Vice Chairs Senator Haskell and REpresentiave Thomas, Ranking Members Senator Sampson and Representative Mastrofrancesco, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

My name is Amelia Neubauer and I am in Fourth Grade. I am submitting this testimony in support of H.B. No. 5498 (RAISED) AN ACT DESIGNATING VARIOUS DAYS, WEEKS AND MONTHS, PORTLAND AS THE GOLF CAPITAL OF THE STATE, A SHELTER PET AS THE STATE PET AND THE LOLLIPOP AS THE STATE CANDY.

When I think of Connecticut, I think of democracy, freedom, and the inspiration for the constitution. I think so many wonderful things but there is one important thing missing... CANDY! All that could change by taking our idea to the next level and voting for Bill HB 5498, to make the lollipop our official state candy.

Like many kids I have allergies. I can't eat snickers, M&Ms, Butterfingers or any candy with nuts. But lollipops have always been a safe sweet treat for me. I was surprised and excited when I learned that they were invented right here in Connecticut.

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For the past two years kids have struggled with covid. Recently the governor lifted the mask mandate. Making the lollipop the state candy would be a fun way to celebrate a return to normal.

Last year we were first hybrid, then half-day, sometimes remote, and always masked and distanced from our friends and teachers. Even with that we were excited learners and this bill brought light and joy to a challenging time.

Some of us worked on our own time to research lollipops so we could write to our representatives and senator. This year has its challenges too, but *every* morning I wake up to a sticky note that I posted above my bed last year... It says, "Make the Bill!" I'm hoping today will move us toward that goal!

Thanks so much for supporting the lollipop bill!

Sincerely,

Amelia Neubauer