

Submitter: Emilie Hart-Hutter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2685

I am an Audiologist who has the privilege and honor to work with babies and their families. I know that cCMV is the leading cause of childhood disability. It is believed to be one of the leading cause of permanent hearing loss in children. cCMV screening would allow for important detection and intervention. This bill would allow for us to create a plan. It would allow for families to know what to expect and how to build their road map. Most cCMV-related hearing loss develops within the first four years of life, which will affect speech/language development, social development and learning in general. If we know a newborn has cCMV, we can be ready. Babies who have cCMV need to have their hearing tested regularly, even if they initially do not have hearing loss. With cCMV hearing loss can be late-onset and is frequently progressive. If we can identify hearing loss immediately we can provide technology and language learning options so that the little one will still meet all developmental milestones appropriately. Please support HB 2685.