

Submitter: Beth Traeger  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2685

My name is Beth Traeger and I am writing on behalf of my husband, our 6 month old cCMV daughter, and our entire family.

According to the textbooks our beloved cCMV daughter should not be here with us today. And if she was born alive, she should have had severe complications from cCMV.

The probability of her being stillborn was incredibly high due to her contracting cCMV during her first trimester and cCMV causing fluid (ascites) to accumulate within her abdomen. Prenatally she had an extremely large volume of ascites within her abdomen, and the very high probability of developing hydrops. Amazingly, she never became hydropic, but the ascites continued to grow massively. Her abdomen had gotten so large from the ascites that at the time of delivery at 35 weeks they had to drain out 300ml of ascites via an intrauterine paracentesis just prior to the C-section in order for her to fit through a standard C-section scar. Her belly was that distended.

If she defied the odds and was born living, the probability of her being born extremely sick and with severe complications from cCMV was incredibly high.

Thankfully and amazingly, our cCMV daughter has defied all of the textbooks and all of the odds stacked against her. She is now 6 months old and thriving!

We strongly believe that knowing our baby girl had cCMV prenatally is a huge reason why she is here with us today. Her having amazing specialists and getting treatments at the appropriate times was the greatest blessing we could have asked for. So many prenatally diagnosed cCMV babies/families who came before us can't say the same. They either lost their baby, or their children have severe complications from cCMV.

Knowing that my baby was suffering while in my womb and very likely could die due to a virus I passed on to her was incredibly heartbreaking. I still think about the fact that I am the cause of all of her pain and suffering on a daily basis. The guilt I feel is substantial. I, her mother accidentally gave her cCMV and the complications that come with it.

"Why didn't I ask my healthcare provider specifically about CMV when I was sick during my first trimester? Why did I give her siblings kisses on the lips? Why didn't I simply wash my hands better" Thoughts that go through my head often and probably

will forever.

Early education about CMV very likely could have prevented our dear girl from becoming infected and suffering from this virus while in utero. She was sick and stuck in a CMV infested home for 25 weeks. She has had and will continue to have innumerable appointments and procedures due to cCMV, and we do not know how the virus will continue to affect our daughter as she grows. All of this potentially could have been avoided.

Talk to anyone about CMV or cCMV and hardly anyone knows what it is. Most healthcare professionals aren't even very familiar with this incredibly common virus and the havoc it can cause if spread to a baby in the womb.

Education on cCMV and CMV prevention is key and currently lacking.

Our cCMV daughter is such an amazing blessing to us. We are so incredibly thankful that she was able to defy what the textbooks had to say about her. We are extremely hopeful future Oregon cCMV babies will be able to defy the odds and change the textbooks as well.