

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

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dr. Dia Hazra, MD and I am the primary pediatrician for Lilah Sloan, a lovely 2 year old girl with congenital CMV infection. She is an amazing girl who I have been lucky to take care of since her birth. Our newborn team did a great job of screening Lilah for CMV infection (a simple urine test) immediately after she was born due to a failed hearing screen and small head size. By diagnosing her early, we were able to immediately establish with her with our multidisciplinary team including ENT and audiology, speech therapy, neurology, and ophthalmology. She was also able to complete a course of oral antiviral treatment to prevent any further progression of her disease in the first 6 months of her life. Her parents, Kate and Andy, are the best advocates for her, and together, their family has taught me not only that early detection of a disease like congenital CMV can make all the difference in a child's life, but that a diagnosis of congenital CMV does not slow anyone down - so far, Lilah has taught me the signs for "lion" and "doctor" in ASL. I am in full support of the bill brought forward by Lilah's parents and the CMV advocacy group for early detection recommendations.

Best,
Dr. Hazra