Testimony for House Bill 165
In support of House Bill 165 to designate June, 2017 as Congenital CMV Infection Month in Ohio:

1. Congenital cytomegalovirus, or “CMV”, infection, that is, infection acquired by the fetus from the mother before birth is Common, but remains a huge but largely unrecognized public health problem:
   1. 1 out of every 200 babies born each year in the United States --and the world --or approximately 30,000 newborns in the United States each year - are infected with CMV –our most common congenital viral infection!
   2. Yet, the vast majority of parents whose babies are born infected with CMV have never heard of the virus.

2. Congenital CMV infection is Serious:
   1. CMV acquired by the fetus is the most common nongenetic cause of sensorineural hearing loss that can progress to complete deafness and need for hearing aids and cochlear implantation. About 6 to 8% of newborns who do not pass the newborn hearing screen are infected with CMV as the cause of the hearing loss.
   2. Congenital CMV infection can result in abnormal migration of neurons in the developing fetal brain and therefore congenital CMV infection is a major but largely unrecognized contributor to permanent neurologic and intellectual disabilities in childhood. Congenital CMV infection can cause microcephaly, seizures, cerebral palsy, vision loss, developmental disabilities, feeding issues and failure to thrive, as well as sleeping, behavior, sensory issues, and even early death –about 400 children die from CMV-related issues every year.

3. Congenital CMV is Treatable when recognized and diagnosed in the first 3 weeks of age:
   1. Treatment has been shown to improve hearing and possibly neurodevelopmental outcomes.

4. CMV is Preventable:
   1. CMV is transmitted from person-to-person through contact with body fluids such as saliva that contain CMV. For pregnant women, knowledge of how they can become infected with CMV during pregnancy and how they can prevent it is KEY. Such precautions consist of :
      - Not Sharing Food, Utensils, Drinks, or Straws
      - Not Putting a Pacifier in their Mouth
      - Avoiding Contact with Saliva when Kissing a Child
      - Not Sharing a Toothbrush
      - Washing Hands well especially after diaper changes

Only with appropriate education of the public on this most common congenital infection will help us prevent some infections of the fetus, identify the infected newborns, initiate antiviral treatment, and ultimately improve their outcomes!

Thank You