

Alaska State Legislature

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Senator Lesil McGuire

Sponsor Statement for SCR23

"Designating March 2012 as Congenital Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month."

Congenital Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a common and serious congenital infection in the United States with 1 in every 150, children born with congenital CMV.

Contraction of the disease at birth can lead to permanent health conditions, including hearing and vision loss, mental disability, seizures and in rare cases death.

CMV is most dangerous for unborn babies whose mothers become infected with the disease during pregnancy and children or adults whose immune systems have been weakened by disease or drug treatment.

With pregnant woman as the number 1 population at risk, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that OB/GYNs counsel women on basic prevention measures to guard against CMV infection.

CMV is preventable with behavioral interventions, such as frequent hand washing with soap and water after contact with diapers or oral secretions, not kissing young children on the mouth, and not sharing food, towels, or utensils with young children. CMV is found in bodily fluids, including urine, saliva, blood, mucus, and tears.

Please join me in support The incidence of children born with congenital CMV can be greatly reduced with public education and awareness.