

**A Certificate of Birth
Resulting in Stillbirth (CBRS)
for Georgia Families**



**In Memory of All of the
Precious Babies Born Still**

On the Signing of the No Heartbeat Act, May 29, 2008

By Erin Dickerson

On Thursday, May 29th, Governor Perdue signed the No Heartbeat Act/SB 381 for the Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth (CBRS) in a small ceremony. Present were Marcia McGinnis (the other half of the driving force behind the bill), Chris and Tammy Campbell (a SHARE Atlanta family that supported us in memory of their stillborn son Aidan) and my little Sara Grace. Also pictured on the left is Rep. Fran Millar, who championed our bill in the House, and on the right is Sen. Dan Weber, our primary sponsor and champion in the Senate.

Immediately upon meeting, Sara Grace presented Gov. Perdue with some magnolias from Marcia's yard. Gov. Perdue scooped her up and posed for pictures with her sitting on his desk. He was so gracious, pouring over Sara Grace with lots of compliments. She was eating it up. We all gathered around his desk while he (and Sara Grace) signed the bill. He spent about 10 minutes with us, and added that he was very pleased to sign our bill, as he thought it was a great piece of legislation. We do too! It was a wonderful afternoon, and a great ending to all of our hard work over the last few months. It has been amazing to hear from moms and dads, from all over the state, about how much a Certificate of Birth for their baby born still means to them.

I testified before the General Assembly that one of the hardest things about having a stillborn child is that you grieve so deeply for a person that no one else knew. This is only made worse by the fact that the birth of that child also goes unrecognized. This bill makes it possible to officially recognize the births of these babies, which can be a step toward healing for grieving families.

On a personal note, undertaking this project has been tremendously healing for me as well. One of my favorite scriptures is Phillipians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." God strengthened me in ways I could not have imagined to see this bill through to passage. I will always miss James Lincoln, and wonder what our family would be like if he was here (he would have been 4 on March 30), but it is incredibly rewarding to do something lasting in his memory. I personally believe that this is just a small example of how God does not waste the tragedies in our life, but rather, if we let Him, He works it together for good.

I cannot thank my family, friends, friends of SHARE Atlanta, and others for all of their support throughout this process. Thank you also for your emails and phone calls to your legislators. Your voices were heard in the General Assembly, and much of our success is owed to you. More info.: www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/GACBRS.htm



**The Road to the Georgia General Assembly...2008
A New Law... "No Heartbeat Act" SB 381
The Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth (CBRS)...
January 14—May 29, 2008
www.shareatlanta.org/legacy/GACBRS.htm**



Together we can make a difference!



Official Signing of the No Heartbeat Act
Rep. Fran Millar, Tammy and Chris Campbell, Gov. Perdue, Erin and daughter Sara Grace Dickerson, Sen. Dan Weber, Marcia McGinnis



Senator Dan Weber, SB 381's sponsor, On the Senate Floor after Final Passage of Bill, Day 40 at 10 pm
Lt to rt: Tammy Campbell, Tamara Partiss, Erin Dickerson, Gail Kaley, Marcia McGinnis



Magnolias for the Governor



Sara Grace helps sign..



Rep. Wendell Willard after passing of SB 381, Day 40.
Rep. Willard "carried" our bill onto the House Floor.



SA Moms- Last Day of Session—
It-rt: Tammy, Tamara, Teresa Cochran, Donna, Erin and Marcia, not pictured Jennifer O'Connor



Lark's Mementos in the House: Donna Wilkerson-Wever stayed all day to see the bill passed.

- Precious Babies Born Still—SHARE Atlanta Families**
- Aidan Grey Campbell, May 16, 2007 at 22 weeks
 - Evan David Cochran, February 18, 2001 at 40 weeks
 - James Lincoln Dickerson, March 30, 2004 at 36 wks
 - Liam Joseph Nulty, February 6, 2005 at 38 weeks
 - Lee Kenneth Partiss III, February 13, 2006 at 40 wks
 - Lark Adell-Delores Wever, January 12, 2008

SHARE Atlanta: Pregnancy and Newborn Loss Grief Support Since 1984