

5018

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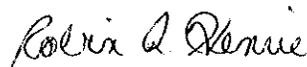
Steve Fontana, Co Chair
Joseph J. Crisco, Co-Chair
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Room 2800, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut, 06106

I am writing this letter to oppose Proposed Bill number 5018, An Act Requiring a Cost-benefit Analysis of Health Insurance Benefits Mandated in This State. I oppose it because I am concerned that passage of this bill might lead to a repeal of the current mandate for insurance companies to cover treatment for Lyme Disease and all the other tick-borne illnesses.

I was diagnosed with Lyme Disease in 2004 and, thanks to the existing legislation, I received long-term antibiotic therapy and I was able to return to work and my career. My son received diagnoses of Lyme Disease and three other tick-borne co-infections in 2003. By the time he was diagnosed, he could not even roll over in bed without help, and he had already needed to leave college. He required extensive antibiotic therapy, but he is now on the road to recovery, and he has returned to college on a part-time basis. In the short-term, our treatments were probably not "cost-effective" for the insurance companies. However, in the long-term, I will be able to work and pay taxes for at least the next ten to fifteen years, and my son will finish college and be able to face adulthood with a career and livelihood which will allow him to be a productive, tax-paying member of society. Without the current insurance mandate for our treatment, it is likely that we would both be facing the rest of our years on disability.

As a voting resident of Connecticut, I strongly oppose this bill. I urge you to oppose this bill because of the potential for the great harm that it could do to those who suffer from Lyme Disease and other tick-borne illnesses. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robin A. Henrie, M.A.