

Public Health Committee

House Bill #6200

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF LONG-TERM ANTIBIOTICS FOR THE TREATMENT OF
LYME
DISEASE

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to you in support of HB 6200. When Lyme disease is not easily cured, patients typically do not know where to turn. Eventually many turn to Lyme Specialists whom they have learned about through other Lyme patients. This is because we have created an environment that makes it very difficult for doctors to treat more complex cases of Lyme disease.

When I contracted Lyme disease in late 2000, I was misdiagnosed. I was told that I had bronchitis and was given a short course of antibiotics. It wasn't until early 2003 and many doctor visits that I finally was tested for Lyme disease. I was lucky. I tested positive right away and it was a Quest Diagnostics test. Unfortunately after almost 3 years, the Lyme disease and what I later found to be co-infections were well entrenched in my body. The standard anti-biotic treatment wasn't enough.

I finally found a doctor who with long term antibiotic treatment was able to help me regain my quality of life. Unfortunately it took a while to find this doctor who is not only "out of network", but also located outside of Connecticut (almost 2 hours each way). Over the years I have been to many doctors, some of which wanted nothing to do with me after I mentioned Lyme disease.

I am thankful everyday that I have found this doctor and that somehow my family has been able to pay for my treatment (have spent in the \$60-70K range and made many sacrifices). There are many people who are unable to find a doctor that can help. There are those who do not have insurance, and there are also those who have insurance, but do not have the financial resources to go out of network.

I am also thankful for the walk-in clinic physician who treated my son with a second month of antibiotics when he appeared fatigued and feverish at a follow-up appointment for Lyme disease. My son had tested positive for Lyme disease three weeks after the removal of an engorged deer tick. On two separate occasions after the completion of this treatment, I was verbally reprimanded by pediatricians for taking my son to a doctor who would use antibiotics in such an irresponsible manner. My son is very healthy today and I am grateful.

Please help bring this bill to law.

Sincerely,

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