

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

RE: Public Health Committee House Bill 6200

Dear Mr. Lyddy,

My name is Elise Brady-Moe and I am the woman in the documentary, *Under Our Skin*, that gave birth to the little boy. I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support of this bill. As I write this testimony, I am in the middle of the battle that parents face with diagnosing and treating this disease with one of my best friends – her little boy is ill with neurological lyme and she has no doctors to turn to for help. I also am currently paying out of pocket to get my son treated for lyme disease. I am hoping my efforts along with yours and other vested parties will ensure this bill is passed.

My testimony:

As the documentary outlines, I have chronic lyme disease and the disease was passed onto my children in-utero. Two of those children were never born because the lyme infection caused the demise of the fetus at 18 weeks and 9 weeks respectively. Danbury Hospital obstetricians agreed that the miscarriages were caused by the lyme infection. My 6<sup>th</sup> pregnancy and birth was documented in the film. My son was born 3.5 years ago, his bloodwork showed he was infected in-utero and he was doing well until 3 months ago. His fatigue and cognitive functions were clearly indicating the lyme bacteria was active in his body. Luckily, I was able to get long term antibiotic treatment for him and he is doing much better. However, getting this diagnosis and treatment (for him and for myself) has been a battle. For my care, I had to go to a physician outside of CT and pay out of pocket for all testing and doctor visits. My son had to wait 3 months for an appointment to see the one lyme literate physician in CT and again we are paying out of pocket for his care. No insurance company will pay the physicians who are lyme literate – it is a disgrace! The icing on the cake is that some pediatricians who are still providers for insurance companies are denying general care (physicals, ear infections, etc) for children who are being treated by the lyme literate physicians! These pediatricians threaten parents that they will not provide general care for their child if they find out they are being treated for lyme disease. How can this happen in this country??

The access to care for lyme disease is extremely limited because doctors are afraid to diagnose or treat using a clinical approach. We need this bill to help protect doctors who are helping the thousands of citizens in CT who are sick and to allow new doctors to diagnose and treat lyme disease using a clinical approach. The cost of these children and adults getting sicker and sicker is beyond measurable.

Thank you again for supporting this bill and please let me know if there is anything I can do to help ensure the situation changes in the state of CT and in this country!

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