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**Written testimony to the Public Health Committee by Jonathan Lyons,  
55 Sheep Pasture Rd. Madison, CT 06443 regarding H.B. 6200**

I would first like to thank Senator Harris and Representative Ritter, distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, for giving me a chance to speak on this matter. I live in a heavily wooded area of Madison, CT. I first tested positive for Lyme Disease when I was 6 years old, and received the standard two week regimen of oral antibiotics. I was re-diagnosed with the disease two more times, and again received the same regimen. Each time I was treated the initial physical symptoms vanished, and my doctor and my parents thought that I was cured.

However, as I progressed through gradeschool and high school, I began suffering from terrible fatigue and neurological symptoms that made it difficult to function. They only grew more severe as I entered college. Finally, in my sophomore year of college, my symptoms became so severe that I could no longer complete my schoolwork. I felt like I was dying, so I checked myself into the hospital. Several confused doctors and misdiagnoses later, blood tests for Lyme Disease were taken, and since it came back strongly positive, I was placed on intravenous Rocephin(ceftriaxone).

My condition improved dramatically within two months, but I did not recover enough energy to return to school until I had endured another 4 months of oral antibiotic treatment on Blaxin(clarithromycin) and Plaquenil(hydroxychloroquine). Finally, after 6 months of antibiotic treatment, I felt well enough to return to college. My doctor even thought I was doing well enough to stop taking the antibiotics.

This turned out to be a bad idea. Within 2 months, I was slowing down again. My fatigue returned and so did neurological problems, with a vengeance. Just a few months before, I had more youthful vitality than I had ever had; now I was so tired that I had to spend much of my day resting in bed. I barely made it through the next year of college and finally had to take more semesters of medical leave. It has taken two more years and a long course of oral minocycline in order for me to recover enough to be able to come here today. Let me emphasize that: long-term antibiotics are the only reason I am able to come here today to speak to you. If it weren't for this medicine, I would still not be able to get out of bed. After years of struggling with this terrible illness, this medicine is giving me back my life.

