

February 2, 2009

Re: Proposed Bill No. 6200

Kim Harrison
35 Taunton Hill Rd
Newtown, CT 06470

Dear Public Health Committee Members:

The purpose of this letter is to support proposed Bill no. 6200, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF LONG-TERM ANTIBIOTICS FOR THE TREATMENT OF LYME DISEASE. My son has suffered from severe neurological Lyme disease. He missed his entire year of 5th grade because he was too ill to attend school.

With the careful and proper treatment, *slowly* my son was able to regain his life back. He suffered from never ending fatigue, had severe light and sound sensitivity as well as a decrease in IQ and processing that impacted his ability to learn and retain information.

His physicians had the freedom to use their clinical judgments to continue to treat our son until all his symptoms were gone. According to the CDC website, Lyme disease is a clinical diagnosis.

If they were told to stop treatment after a few months, our boy would still be very sick from a spirochete that was affecting his brain and significantly impacting every area of his life. If left undertreated, Lyme can come back with greater severity of symptoms.

Thanks to his physicians he is back to being a top student and gifted athlete.

Many people, children and families can not find diagnose or treatment for tick-borne diseases in the state of CT. There are few doctors willing to treat due to the fear of repercussions by the CT DPH. Many travel out of state; it is a great hardship for those who are sick.

I strongly feel that the CT State Department should not interfere with physicians treating this horrific disease. Tick-borne diseases are complicated. They are misunderstood, misdiagnosed, dismissed and often undertreated. The science and understanding of tick-borne diseases are in their infancy. At this point in time, to force a singular and simple protocol of treatment leaves far too many individuals particularly our children underserved.

My story is one of *thousands* of children and patients who are in need of physicians who should be allowed to do what they have been trained to do. Their very ability is being squashed by organizations who seem to believe that Lyme is hard to get and easy to treat. If that were the case, I and thousands of others in CT and across the country would be silent, healthy and happy.

Regards,

Kim Harrison