

Public Health Committee: H.B. 6200

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Members of the Public Health Committee:

In October 2008, I was diagnosed with Lyme Disease. To finally have a name for the years of pain and ailments was incredibly validating, but also placed a huge burden on myself and my family, one that we were not prepared to take on. With this diagnosis came the fight for treatment, and the realization that this is an epidemic, one that has been far overlooked, undertreated and ignored.

As Connecticut citizens living in the very state that Lyme Disease was first identified, we were lied to. I wholeheartedly believed that lie – *Lyme Disease is hard to get, easy to treat* – up until now.

I am outraged that doctors, who have specialized in treating this disease for 20 years, are being penalized for their treatment practices across the country, and in this very state. They are the only ones who care to understand the magnitude of this disease, and have proved through their patients' successes that long term antibiotic therapy IS the treatment for Lyme disease.

At twenty-six I deserve a happy and healthy life, and so do the others battling this complex, multi-system, debilitating and painful disease. To allow a doctor in the State of Connecticut to "prescribe, administer or dispense antibiotic therapy for therapeutic purpose to a person diagnosed with and having symptoms of Lyme disease" without being subject to disciplinary action means the State of Connecticut values the welfare of its residents, as well as the welfare of its doctors. For those of us fighting Lyme Disease, our lives depend on them.

Long term antibiotics are my only chance at recovery. Please approve H.B. 6200, so I may have the chance to live a happy and healthy life again.

Sincerely,

Monica Amore