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4 Feb 2009

To whom it may Concern:

I am writing in support of the Lyme Bill. My three children, my husband and I all have Lyme. My daughter is the most ill, and despite an early diagnosis, went 5 years before she was properly re-diagnosed and could begin treatment. She was given the standard 30 days of oral Doxy 5 years ago, and as she suffered spiraling cognitive deficits and many physical symptoms, was told that it could not be Lyme. She wound up in and out of psychiatric units for 5 months last spring, and we were told she was incurable as she continued to lose her reasoning. By chance, a doctor who recognized it, but didn't know how to treat it, was able to direct us to find care, although he didn't know with whom. We live in Massachusetts, and have had to find doctors in Connecticut and New York to treat us. There were very few doctors available, and long waits to begin.

It was extremely difficult to find knowledgeable doctors locally, and even doctors who would cooperate with our expert doctors, as this disease is so little understood. By blocking competent treatment of this disease, we are not only condemning people, especially children, to fates which could be avoided, but we are also preventing health care professionals from learning how to treat a very treatable disease.

Left untreated, Lyme is devastating; there is no controversy about that. I can bear witness from my family that intensive, skillful treatment by Lyme-literate doctors (which are rare in Massachusetts) can cure this disease. My entire family is recovering. My daughter has returned to school and a normal life, although her treatment is still underway. The non-Lyme doctors who are treating her are amazed at her recovery and can only attribute it to her antibiotic regimen. Her Lyme doctors are the most careful, cautious and attentive doctors we have ever encountered. They leave no possible opening for harm to come from treatment, through careful monitoring and visits. They are true experts.

Connecticut can prevent knowledge about treatment from spreading and helping people who are either desperately ill (or heading that way) or it can be a leader in treatment standards for a disease which has reached epidemic proportions and is poorly understood. I hope that Connecticut chooses to be a beacon of health care, rather than to extinguish it, and that you vote to allow sound medical knowledge to be used and disseminated.

Respectfully submitted-

Susan Israel, AIA