

**I am writing to you in support of HB 6200.** As a Lyme sufferer myself and the mother of 2 children who have been stricken by the disease, I can testify to the fact that taking antibiotics for an extended period of time is an effective method to either cure Lyme disease or to at least keep it at bay.

I was initially diagnosed with Lyme in 1995 and was treated for 4 months with antibiotics. Not knowing that I was not necessarily cured by this extended treatment, when I got very sick again, it never occurred to me that I had Lyme Disease still. It was not until my daughter was diagnosed with a long untreated case of LD, that I realized that I was also still suffering from the disease. I was treated for several years with a variety of drug combinations and I finally feel like I am "holding steady" with very few symptoms. I am afraid to say "Lyme free" because I know how quickly one can have a recurrence. My daughter is less fortunate than I and although she is much improved, she has been on antibiotics for several years. This is not a choice! This is a necessity. Whenever she goes off the medications, her symptoms flare right back up again. With a flare, she cannot attend school, think clearly and has severe shooting pains coupled with extreme fatigue. My son has also had successful treatment with antibiotics administered for a lengthy period. In each case, no improvement was seen until after several months on the drugs. 20Slowly one sees the improvement. Just a few weeks of antibiotics works to help the lucky few who catch the disease in its very early stages.

The "experts" who say the use of long term drugs is not helpful based on "scientific evidence" have not reviewed all the evidence. It is so disturbing to me that so many in the medical community can be so attached to a short term treatment protocol that so often does not work. My faith and trust in the medical profession has been turned around by the realization that many medical decisions and such are based on monetary gain and the inability for physicians to admit that they might be mistaken.

I am aware of very many individuals who have been helped by long term antibiotics. A doctor and the patient should have the ability to determine the treatment protocol that they, together, feel is appropriate. Neither should have to be concerned that the physician might be censored for his or her actions.

HB 6200 will do much to insure that the citizens of Connecticut can receive the medical care they deserve.

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