

I write to you in support of H.B.6200- An Act Concerning the Long-term use of Antibiotic Treatment of Lyme Disease.

I am not like a lot of the patients you will see or hear about today.

- I have only Lyme.
- I test positive by CDC standards.
- I repeatedly test positive for fresh infection with Lyme.
- I have a brain SPECT scan which shows moderate damage consistent with Lyme.
- I have a neuropsychological exam which shows that I have lost more than 60% of the processing speed that they would expect for someone of my intellect.
- I have been exhaustively tested to rule out lupus, arthritis, epilepsy, brain tumors, you name it.

Every time I take a hiatus from the antibiotics, I progressively get worse and worse until I am in agony with aching joints, headaches, and exhaustion. After resuming the antibiotics, I can walk, work, and take care of my family again.

I think long-term antibiotics are the only reason I am able to be a productive member of society. We need to make researching this dreadful disease a high priority. We need dramatically better testing, and a cure for the people who now have permanent damage as a result of physician neglect.

I have two children who also have Lyme disease. My daughter, now six, has been treated since she was two years old. She has Babesia duncani (another tick-borne disease similar to malaria) and Lyme disease. She has to remain on her medication continuously or she suffers high fevers lasting as long as nine days at a time. She has missed more than 60 days of school in the last three years as a result. She now is starting to have speech delays and terrible headaches. Even the long-term medications are not enough to stop the onslaught of damage done by two tick-borne diseases. This is a brilliant child who will never see her full potential because the medical community refuses to address this atrocity.

I cannot believe the arrogance of the medical community. How can they accept with open arms barely-heard-of new versions of old diseases such as avian flu and adamantly refute the possibility that there could be a new disease or a new strain of an old disease such as Lyme?

Kimberlee Pappa

Chapter Chair

Eastern CT Chapter, Lyme Disease Association, LDAECC

860-303-9020 cell

easternctlda@yahoo.com

www.lymediseaseassociation.org

Sprague, CT 06330