

Written Summary of Anna Mirabello

3/1/11

Public Health Committee

**Testimony in support of HB6481, an Act Concerning the  
Establishment of a Lupus Education and Awareness Plan**

Senator Stillman, Representative Ritter, and the members of the Public Health Committee, I am submitting the following written testimony in support of House Bill #6481.

My name is Anna Mirabello, and I am a current resident of West Hartford Connecticut. I am 13 years old, am in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and am in full support of the bill. I was diagnosed with Lupus 3 years ago and it has not been an easy battle. Though it was tough at times, I also learned that it is very manageable with proper care. Raising awareness about Lupus is so important because each person informed about this auto immune deficiency, is one person or one step closer to a cure for the disease. About 500,000 people are affected by Lupus in the U.S., 90% of them being women and young ladies. I have been fortunate enough to have gotten a diagnoses and treatment to help manage it. However, there are many people out there, I'm sure, that haven't been tested, who are weak, under-weight, and wondering why everything hurts all the time. What I am hoping this bill will do, is raise

awareness and help people get diagnosed and get them started on treatment. I'm also hoping that it will lower the amount of invasive procedures that are done when being tested during a flare. This bill will benefit all the patients dealing with lupus and will help all their friends, family, and supporters know more about it, to hopefully help foresee the signs of a flare and stop them quicker. I have learned that this deficiency is very manageable when you know the telltale signs of a flare and how to treat them, but without the treatment available, or lack of knowledge about it, many are living in pain and suffering. Over all, passing this bill will help so many people and families dealing with the disease and the whole community if they get educated on the topic.

Thank you again for introducing this important legislation. I believe it will have a very positive impact on the lives of patients living with Lupus in Connecticut.