

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

I am the mother of a strong vibrant young man who was struck with lupus nephritis at the age of 11. It was fairly rare for a young boy to be struck with such an aggressive form of lupus. We were lucky that our pediatrician Dr. James Ralabate and the excellent doctors at Yale Children's Hospital were so quick and aggressive with his treatment or we may have lost him. Jake went through chemo for 6 months and was in and out of Yale multiple times. All that time, he was back and forth to school, and not only did the kids in school not know what lupus was - but neither did the teachers. He is 15 today and living with lupus every day. Jake, my son, is a sophomore at Stratford High School and a talented baseball player. Although he can tell you almost anything about lupus, it is very rare that anyone knows what it is. Even the adults around him. Although there are a few limitations in his life, he works with them and around them to live a happy and full life.

The motto "Someone you know has Lupus" is really true!

Please help educate the people of Connecticut about Lupus and how pervasive it really is.

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

*Thank you
Catherine Miko
59 Elmhurst Avenue
Stratford, CT 06614
203-377-7430*