

Public Testimony on HB5104 March 8, 2013

Lyme disease, or Lyme borreliosis, in the U.S. is caused by several species of the *Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato* group. The two-tier serology assays are known to be unreliable for the diagnosis of Lyme disease [CDC on Lyme disease testing <http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/diagnosistreatment/LabTest/>]. Alternative microbiological tests based on bacterial culture or nucleic acid amplification should be explored for a more accurate diagnosis of Lyme borreliosis.

I recommend the Department of Public Health to conduct a general survey by sending out blind-coded simulated blood plasma samples spiked with various species of Lyme disease-causing bacteria and irrelevant microbes, and require all hospital laboratories in the State of Connecticut to use their best method to test for Lyme disease infection in these unknown samples. The laboratories which return the most correct answers would be invited to further develop a state-of-the-art diagnostic test for Lyme disease.

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