

## Carter SB368

The following testimony is for **Bill SB0368**:

TESTIMONY FOR LYME DISEASE HEARING MARCH 8TH, 2013:

My name is Crystal Carter, I am 29 years old and I am battling Chronic Lyme Disease. My battle began with symptoms beginning October of 2009, however, I was not officially diagnosed until January 2010. Since that time, I have seen 16 doctors, have had to quit working full time and have had to move in with family because I am not healthy enough to support myself. I had many doctors turn me away because they would only treat Lyme Disease in children or because they told me I needed IV treatment, but didn't "feel comfortable" monitoring such treatment. In March 2012, I began seeing a Lyme-literate doctor who placed me on IV antibiotics. Since then, my health has steadily improved. Presently, I am struggling to consistently have "good days" so that I may put my college degree to good use in achieving my life long career goals. As I continue to battle this disease every moment of each day, my life is precarious. I do not know when I can have children and have a family or when I can work full time again to support myself. I do not know if this disease will go into remission and if so, I do not know if and when it will come back. I will never be able to join the military like I've always wanted to do. Since I've been battling Lyme Disease, I have been fighting for other things also. I have been fighting for my human right to healthcare, fighting to get my independence back, fighting to spread awareness to others, and spending my part time pay checks on doctor's appointments and medical bills. I have had to trade my college honors degree in for foodstamps. There are 3 reasons I have had such a long battle with this disease 1) I went 4 months being misdiagnosed 2) I went over two years without being able to find a Lyme Disease literate doctor willing to treat me and 3) I am not wealthy enough to afford naturopathic treatments as an alternative. I want to be healthy and have a successful career. I want to get married and long to have children. It is my hope that this country finally makes an effective change when it comes to affordable treatment and testing for Lyme Disease and the many other coinfections it can come with.

Sincerely,

Crystal R. Carter

Lyme Disease & Chronic Illness Support Group Facilitator

Meriden, CT

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