

I would **ALSO** like to add the same testimony to:
Senate Bill No. 0368

*AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH TO REPORT ON LYME DISEASE AND
OTHER TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES.*

Thank you for your time,

Richele Liberto

4 March, 2013

Dear CT Legislative Public Health Committee,

I would like to express my concerns regarding Lyme & Tick Borne diseases and the awareness that I believe needs to be brought to our community as a concerned citizen.

This disease has affected many of my friends and family, and has had devastating effects. This is a very real and serious disease that has been misdiagnosed for the lack of education for far too long.

Below you will only find a handful of examples that Lyme disease had affected my loved ones, unfortunately there are too many to get into in this letter.

I have a friend who had been misdiagnosed for such a long period of time that he had developed severe debilitating arthritis. He had had very high fevers and a lot of pain and had went through many doctors & tests for over a year before he found a doctor who was knowledgeable about Lyme disease to treat him properly.

My brother also has Lyme disease. He had undergone severe testing for heart abnormalities only to find out that it was Lyme disease that was affecting him. He has struggled with thrush and yeast issues because of the disease which has caused other health problems. He has severe headaches and joint pain associated with Lyme disease as well. It has been very hard to find a Doctor that is familiar with the devastating effects.

My grandmother had the largest "bull's eye" the hospital had ever seen because of a tick bite but it was on her back and no one had known it was there. She developed dementia which I feel was a direct link to the Lyme disease, which studies have shown. She was never treated with more than a few weeks of antibiotics which we now know was not enough to control the disease. By the size of the "bull's eye" she had the Lyme disease much longer than we had all expected. At the time we trusted the doctor's advice on treatment. I wish I knew then what I know now, unfortunately it was too late to help my grandmother.

My niece has Lyme disease and battles with it on a consistent continual basis. She unfortunately found out after she had had it for half her life and has had permanent damage done because of it. She will be on medication for the rest of her life because she was not treated early enough. She has lost a whole year of her life scholastically and has spent the past several years trying to manage the disease and get back on track.

My girlfriend has had Lyme disease and she was one of the lucky ones who received treatment early. My mother has had Lyme disease that has affected her vision, joints, concentration and other ailments. I have 2 other brothers, one of which developed Bell's palsy because of the disease. The list goes on, my cousin, my neighbor, etc.

Everyone you know has been affected in some fashion by Lyme disease, although you may not even know it. The disease is rampant and most people are not aware of the seriousness of it. Just taking a round of antibiotics does not cure you as most doctors' make you feel, giving you a false sense of security.

Please support us in the fight to bring awareness to the community, it could be your brother, niece or grandmother that could be saved.

Thank you for your time & attention regarding this matter. – Concerned Citizen