

Dear Governor Malloy,

I am writing today in support of Raised Bill No. 207, AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR A LYME DISEASE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM. We need your help to convince Commissioner Mullen to do the same.

New research from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found that Lyme disease costs the U.S. health care system between \$712 million and \$1.3 billion a year. Simple steps towards a systematic prevention and education program are crucial: they will prevent more infections from happening each year, they will contribute to better and swifter diagnoses, in summary they will positively affect the lives of your constituents. Had such a program been implemented earlier, I would probably today enjoy a healthy and productive life (spoiler: I don't); the physical and economical toll Lyme disease takes on people is incommensurable: education and prevention can change this.

I am asking you today to encourage Commissioner Mullen to support Bill #207 and make Lyme disease prevention a priority in 2015. Connecticut has been suffering under the weight of this disease long enough.

Sincerely

Charlotte Geniez

Willimantic, CT