

February 5, 2015

Distinguished Chairs and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of Raised Bill No. 207, AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR A LYME DISEASE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Having been a nursing student, I was taught to initiate social acceptance is to educate and allow the masses to know there is an issue: Lyme disease is a community illness. Connecticut needs health departments to educate and sustain MASS MEDIA Marketing and COMMUNITY BASED EDUCATION of Lyme Disease Prevention with an award of \$450,000. Now let me tell you why.

If someone says they have Lyme disease the conversation ceases as people don't understand it. People don't know what to ask, say or think. It is like AIDS when it was first exposed before society became educated. The public now understands the cause, effect and treatment of AIDS. AIDS is now controlled and can be prevented if protocol is followed. People were afraid to hug a person with AIDS or invite them to their homes. People are afraid of Lyme disease because they are not educated.

Lyme patients look normal, but live a depressed life as the frontal lobe, parietal and temporal lobes are decreased in oxygen and affect their mood, personality and ability to recall person, place and what they need to do next. People might see the strange personality changes, the body ticks similar to turrets or a doctor might see neurological effects of dilated eyes during TIAs and irregular EEGs but not be able to diagnose the origin of symptoms. There are devastating effects that are invisible to one who looks at a person with Lyme disease such as body tremors that feel like they are in an earthquake or the eyes that jolt causing blurriness or distortion or the intermittent vertigo that keeps them from working. These are just a small number symptoms that many Lyme patients experience. If the origin of Lyme can be prevented then our population will be mentally, physically and socially stronger. Education is the key to preventing this insidious disease.

Lyme disease affects families, loved ones, businesses and income. I met a man that used to fly the "A1 Helicopters" for the President and is now in a wheelchair with brittle bones and struggling financially as well as physically. I met a woman that was a physician and ended up in a psychiatric ward whose muscles are all contracted until she finally met an aggressive doctor. She couldn't walk and was "locked in" to a body that she had no control. I met a woman who was a lawyer and lost her business due to short term memory loss. I met a PA student who had to quit school but was treated and now has to retake all of their medical courses. I met a girl that had to move to Arizona due to the extreme physical pain related to moisture and had the occipital portion of her skull removed due to inflammation of the brain tissue. I met a Naturopathic Doctor who began studies to become an MD and contracted Lyme disease in Canada and was fortunate to be able to change her program of studies.

Prevention and education of Lyme Disease is the first start to protecting the public and preventing our financial resources, business losses and the psychological impact of this illness to continue.

I was a nursing student until September of this last year. Part of the education was to learn what RNs could do in Public or Community Nursing. The main concept to get a population to aid in a cure is to first educate and allow them to realize that there is a problem. There is a widespread problem – uneducated, non-compliant medical protocol and political dedication to agreeing to end Lyme disease. We have now brought it to your attention; it is your responsibility to protect the community by doing the right thing: Bill No. 207 for Prevention and Education of Lyme Disease is needed and warranted.

The DPH needs to help prevention and education of Lyme disease. It needs to start! Education of prevention of Lyme disease will lead to proper treatment and a decrease in the overwhelming expenses, physical affects and psychological stability for patients and their families. The decrease or cease of Lyme disease is a community based issue. It is important for our children and their future as well as their children.

The public needs to be educated on the prevention of this disease.

We need your support: Raised Bill No. 207, AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR A LYME DISEASE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Thank you

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