

February 2, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to express my support for Raised Bill No. 207: AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR A LYME DISEASE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.

I am writing to you as someone who has been dealing with chronic Lyme disease for over 20 years now. This illness has wreaked havoc on every area of my life and it did not have to be this way. I first became ill with flu-like symptoms in the fall of 1995. I had no bulls-eye rash and so had no idea that I had been bitten by a tick. Neither the doctors I saw at the time nor I knew to consider Lyme disease as the source of my ailment. I was erroneously told that I had Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS).

I was given numerous medicines and underwent many treatments for CFIDS but no antibiotics because none of my doctors realized that I had an infection that was spreading by the day, the week, and the years! It was not until the spring of 2000 that I was *finally* diagnosed correctly and by then the disease had become chronic. I was in stage 3 Lyme by the time I was put on antibiotics nearly 5 years later.

Lyme disease had cut me down when I was first getting started with my Career. I was 27 when I was forced to go on Social Security Disability because I was so debilitated. I am 44 now and still trying to fight my way back to a place where I am healthy enough to support myself independent of my government support.

If I had been exposed to a program like BLAST before I became ill back in 1995 I would have known to consider the possibility that I had been infected with Lyme disease. Better yet – if I had known the prevention information that BLAST provides maybe I would not have been bitten in the first place!

Please fund Bill No. 207. As ground zero for this terrible disease the state of Connecticut needs educational/prevention programs like BLAST.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Levy  
50 Bethpage Drive, Bethel CT