



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD
Office of the First Selectman

February 5, 2015

To: Chairs and Members of the Committee on Children.

I am writing in support of Raised Bill No. 207, An Act Concerning Funding for a Lyme Disease Prevention and Education Program. The Town of Ridgefield is in full support of the State of Connecticut awarding \$450,000 to implement and sustain a statewide Lyme disease prevention effort combining mass media marketing and community-based education based on the BLAST Lyme prevention model.

Lyme disease is a serious threat to the health of all Connecticut residents. The BLAST prevention program referenced in legislation and created by the Ridgefield Health Department has proven for the last several years to be an excellent evidenced-based program that has educated many on the serious health issue of lyme disease.

Today we are asking for this Committee to support an allocation of funding that will allow the Ridgefield Health Department to bring this program to health directors across the state, furthering our progress in the fight against lyme disease.

Too many people, both young and old, have suffered severely from the effects of this disease when greater education can help limit and possibly eliminate more people from becoming infected. When the Centers for Disease Control and the Connecticut Department of Health openly support this request for education, it is necessary that our legislators understand and agree that this is a small sum of money that can yield tremendous benefits.

We all ask that the Committee on Children support SB207 and take a positive step toward helping the children of our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rudy Marconi".

Rudy Marconi
First Selectman

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