



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

**REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTIE CARPINO**  
THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700  
Christie.Carpino@housegop.ct.gov

**CHAIR**  
PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

### Testimony in support of

### **SB-438: AN ACT DESIGNATING VARIOUS MONTHS, WEEKS AND DAYS OF COMMEMORATION**

### **Government Administration and Elections Committee**

**March 14, 2016**

Co-Chairs Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila; Ranking Members Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. Thank you for raising this bill and allowing me to submit testimony in support of *SB 438: An Act Designating Various Months, Weeks and Days of Commemoration*.

I support this bill that will, in part, proclaim the month of May of each year to be Lyme Disease Awareness Month to heighten public awareness for Lyme Disease. According to the Department of Public Health, over 3,000 cases of Lyme disease have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control annually since 1998. As the number of diagnosed cases is suspected to be far below the number of cases actually reported, the number of Connecticut residents that contracted Lyme disease is actually much higher.

Too many friends, colleagues and constituents suffer from the ill effects of Lyme disease. Severe joint pain and swelling, severe headaches and neck stiffness, nerve pain, short term memory loss, rashes and Bell's Palsy are among some of the symptoms brought on by Lyme disease. It is imperative that we, as a legislature, advocate for awareness of the disease. If awareness were more prevalent, then these cases would be less common.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important proposal.