

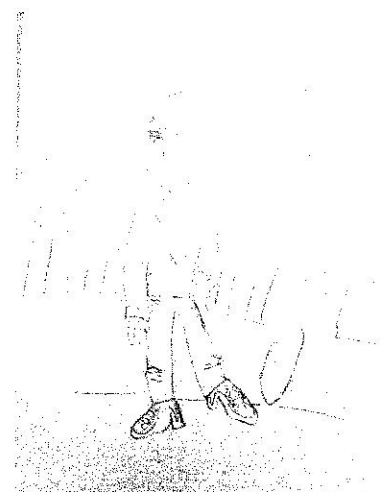
Testimony of Eloria Carter
before the Health and Government Operations Committee
SUPPORTING HB259
February 4, 2020



- My name is Eloria Carter. I am a fifth grader from Lisbon Elementary. I like to draw characters comics. I enjoy listening to music. My favorite thing to do is read. I mostly like to read Goosebumps and Artemis. Books are interesting, and I like to read challenging books with long words. Right now I am reading the Artemis Fowl Series. I am also participating in my school's Battle of the Books. I have read seven of the nine books that my team are sharing.
- In first grade I started to read Goosebumps. Then by the middle of the year it started to hurt to read. But I loved to read books and kept pushing myself to read, even though it hurt.
- I tried enlarged font on my Kindle, which helped a little bit. But the pain in my eyes and head got worse and I couldn't read Goosebumps anymore, only picture books. Schoolwork was really painful; the words were too small. Sound hurt, especially when people talked.
- One day I told my mom that about how much my head was hurting. I said it hurt too much to read. My mom took me to an eye doctor who found my eyes were not working together properly. He suggested that my mom get me tested for Lyme.
- My pediatrician did bloodwork and found I had Lyme. She gave me 21 days of antibiotics which helped but after I was done the pain came back and got even worse.
- The bottoms of my feet were hurting, especially when I first woke up. My stomach would really hurt. I would cry a lot because it hurt so much. Some days I would miss school because it was too painful.
- My mom took me to my Lyme doctor and started having me take things that by the next day I began to feel better. Over the next year, I began to get better and better. My mom stopped me from drinking milk and had me eat a lot of produce.
- It was tough to take some of the medicine, but I could see that it was helping me. My feet stopped hurting. I can now run in soccer and softball. I can listen to people talking pain free.
- The best thing was I got to read again.
- Lyme is really, really awful. I live in the woods and could get Lyme again. Please pass this bill and protect my doctor.

This is my testimony from 2018 when I asked you to pass a law to protect my doctor who was treating me. But you didn't protect her and now my doctor has left Maryland.

Testimony of Eloria Carter
before the Health and
Government Operations
Committee
SUPPORTING HB 1266
March 7, 2018



Testimony of Catherine Carter
before the Health and Government Operations Committee
SUPPORTING HB259
February 4, 2020

- My name is Catherine Carter. Two years ago, we come before this committee asking you to protect my daughter's doctor. However, no protections were passed, and my daughter's doctor, **who was a family physician who had treated patients for over 17 years in Maryland, left the state.** Most patients don't realize they are at risk of losing their integrative medicine doctor. They and their parents are just looking for relief from their suffering and overjoyed that they found someone who can offer them effective treatments. It isn't until we have lost our doctor that we realize the current system in Maryland does not protect doctors practicing proven integrative medical practices.
- When I was working on passage of the Atticus Act in 2018, I saw a bill that was working to protect integrative doctors. I had not realized that we were in danger losing my daughter's doctor. A feeling of fear filled me that my daughter would lose access to a treatment that had proven so successful in helping with her debilitating pain. I spoke to my doctor about the bill and our plans to testify. She was extremely supportive as she felt vulnerable in this state to practice integrative medicine, despite her years of training and expertise in the field.
- Two years ago, we asked this committee to protect our doctor. Nothing was passed and later that year her doctor left Maryland and began a practice in California, a state that offers protections for the both the patient and doctor with the passage of Senate Bill SB-577.

"This measure was enacted for the specific purpose of enabling complementary and alternative healthcare practitioners to lawfully practice in California without violating the state's Medical Practice Act, subject to specified restrictions and conditions." (<https://californiahealthfreedom.com/>)

- Eloria is mostly pain free. She has some arthritic pain in her hands and knees. Some days she wakes up with pain on the bottoms of her feet. However, for the most part she is a happy child able to read, do her classwork without pain, play on her soccer team, who dreams of being a comic book artist, filling sketchbooks with her work. We have not found another doctor to treat her continued pain.
- Without protection for both the patient and provider, we will continue to chase away these doctors that are successfully treating patients. This committee has accomplished so amazing things to problems : lowering my healthcare cost on the individual insurance market, getting eye doctors to compromise, working to lower prescription drugs prices, passed the Atticus Act to ensure more children who struggle to see clearly like my son are found. I am asking to you find a compromised solution to this problem to ensure that Marylanders, especially our more vulnerable like my daughter, are getting access to the treatment they need. Don't let another year go by so that we lose more doctors.