

Written Testimony for HB 1199: Lyme Disease and Related Tick-Borne Illnesses-
Long Term Antibiotic Treatment

Dear Committee Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and all other esteemed
Committee Members:

I would strongly urge all of you to vote “Favorable” in support of this bill. This bill will make it possible for Lyme Disease sufferers to gain some ground in their treatment by having antibiotics Prescribed for longer than 4 weeks at a time, and to “pulse” antibiotics (rotate them), so that one antibiotic won’t be used constantly in treatment of this awful disease.

As anyone who suffers from this disease knows, this is a very hard disease to control once it has “taken root”, so to speak, in one’s body. Most Lyme-literate doctors have had to NOT participate in taking insurance coverage, because insurance companies do not want to pay for antibiotics for more than 30 days at a time. And most Lyme-literate doctors will also tell you that this treatment plan does NOT work, especially for chronic Lyme sufferers. This Lyme bacteria and its co-infections are very adept at “hiding” in the body where our white blood cells cannot find them. That is why it is important to “rotate antibiotics and to use different ones, so that the Lyme bacteria and co-infections “get confused” and come out of “hiding” where the antibiotics and our white blood cells can actually attack them.

I’m not going to go into a long, drawn-out story of my health. Suffice it to say that I have been recently diagnosed with Lyme disease, and my practitioner thinks that I have had Lyme for a long time and just never knew it. How many millions of people have the same story? As we know, Lyme is the “great imitator” and is very hard to diagnose.

This legislation would help all Lyme sufferers, because this may end up helping to “deactivate” the bacterial of Lyme and the co-infections, or at least help to control the “bacterial load” of Lyme and the co-infections.

Again, please vote “Favorable” in support of HB 1199 so that many sufferers may have a chance at feeling better, or possibly even go into remission from this awful disease.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Trudy Tibbals

A very concerned mother, Maryland resident, and Lyme sufferer