

## **SUPPORT SB969 (HB1375)**

Honorable Chair, and the members of the committee.

In the summer of 2020, I discovered I had been bitten by tiny ticks. My doctor ran blood tests, confirmed an active Lyme infection, and prescribed a two-week course of antibiotics. Having heard that Lyme disease can be difficult to treat and may become chronic if not addressed sufficiently, I completed the full course with great concern for my health. Follow-up blood tests confirmed no active infection, and I believed I had put the illness behind me.

A couple of years later, however, I began experiencing immune system issues. I was getting sick frequently. After consulting multiple doctors and nutritionists, and undergoing various tests, it was found that my immune system was suppressed. Additional tests – including an MRI – revealed that chronic Lyme disease may have been a contributing factor. The cumulative cost of those doctor visits, lab work, imaging, and specialist consultations has been significant, both financially and in terms of time and stress.

My experience illustrates precisely the problem this bill seeks to address. A short initial course of antibiotics may not always be sufficient to fully eradicate Lyme disease, and the long-term consequences of under-treatment can be far more burdensome – for patients and for the healthcare system – than a more thorough course of treatment would have been from the start.

I strongly urge lawmakers and insurers to consider supporting and covering innovative ways of treating Lyme disease when clinically warranted, giving patients the best possible chance of a complete recovery in the early stages of infection. I believe this bill is a meaningful step in that direction.

I respectfully urge the committee(s) to advance SB969 and HB1375.

Sincerely,  
Mark Meyerovich  
District 15