

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Regarding Lyme disease testimonies
Date: Monday, December 12, 2016 8:09:37 AM

From: natalie hobock
Sent: Sunday, December 11, 2016 3:04 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Regarding Lyme disease testimonies

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for listening to fellow lyme advocates' testimonies this past Friday.

Representative Flynn asked a wonderful question that gets to the heart of the matter: Why are Lyme patients being denied treatment beyond 3-4 weeks when they are still so devastatingly ill and why are doctors being disciplined for treating lyme patients?

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal filed an antitrust investigation against the IDSA because they have monetary conflicts of interest regarding lyme vaccine trials, insurance companies, etc. This investigation uncovered serious flaws and sums up the heart of the matter or rep. Flynn's question:

<http://www.ct.gov/ag/cwp/view.asp?Q=414284>

I would like to reiterate that the reason is due to IDSA GUIDELINES, NOT law, which helps insurance companies deny needed treatment. Insurance companies, ultimately, are businesses and do not want to spend money they don't have to. Furthermore, 12 of the 14 authors of IDSA guidelines have monetary conflicts of interest regarding lyme:
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53498f16e4b01ce82d4b2228/t/579a86e46a49638f9c8366b6/1469744869866/UOS2_claim_references_3.pdf

Would this be allowed if we had cancer or MS or a different disease? Absolutely not. There would be a huge uproar if cancer patients were denied treatment yet still sick. If insurance companies said, here is 3-4 weeks of treatment, your're still sick, but that is all you get, this would not be acceptable. However, this is the norm for Lyme patients.

We are daughters, mothers, sons, fathers, wives and husbands who are suffering greatly. We need help desperately.

I have Lyme disease and tick-Borne coinfections, along with other diseases and health problems that Lyme disease spurred. I went to roughly 30-50 of the "top" doctors in Texas for ten years and was misdiagnosed with everything under the sun while getting sicker and sicker. I, not a doctor, suspected I had Lyme disease, went out of state to find a lyme-treating physician, and was finally properly diagnosed with Lyme, babesiosis and bartonella.

I have to travel to Maryland to get treatment, and my parents have to help me pay for it. I am fortunate that I am able to still work and be successful. However, that is pretty much the only thing I'm able to do. The rest of my time is spent sick and recovering in bed only to repeat the process.

All my plans and dreams are lost or, if I'm lucky, on hold for a long time. I hate seeing my parents cry and worry about me. I hate seeing loved ones cry and worry about me. I hate missing out on life.

Many people lose their home, savings and go bankrupt due to this disease.

If I would have been properly diagnosed and treated promptly, I would not be chronically ill and miserable.

Please educate doctors about Lyme disease. They are told it is hard to get and easy to cure. It is easy to get (approximately 300,000 infected per year per CDC surveillance) and the longer one goes without treatment, the sicker they become and then are often left chronically ill.

Please send a clear message to doctors that they will not be reprimanded in any way for treating lyme patients.

It is so hard for me to understand why no one is helping us get the help we need.

I implore you to help Lyme sufferers in the above suggested ways and any way you can.

If you would like a good overview of what Lyme patients face, physically, with insurance companies, and how IDSA effects us, please watch "Under Our Skin."

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Natalie Hobock

Sent from my iPhone