

Hello. I am Olivia Marie Wachsmuth, a 53 year old college educated RN whom is permanently disabled from neurological Lyme disease.

I was first diagnosed with Lyme in 1992 after several odd illnesses were connected by an alert physician. Since then I have been treated with long term orals, injectables, intravenous antibiotics and hyperbaric oxygen therapy. It seems that every few years the disease reoccurs. Each time we must jump through hoops at much expense, to prove again that the germ is back.

I was active in the Lyme Disease network, assisting at conferences, doing a lot of patient education and advocacy for many years. I had the pleasure of getting to know Dr Paul Lavoie in San Francisco when he was treating my young daughter for "neuroborreliosis" as he called it. His concepts of how the germ hides in the body and the cycling of the symptoms are often being presented as if they were new ideas. He was a few decades ahead of the rest of us.

My body is a poster child for Lyme. My speech is halting. I can barely walk with a walker and have a service dog to assist me. My coordination and strength are poor. Fortunately I am stubborn enough to keep going. However, my level of functioning is declining. I must keep fighting as I am responsible for the care of others.

As a nurse, I have seen how the clinical picture of Lyme varies so widely from client to client. I have been assisted in California, Hawaii and now in Oregon, with getting long term treatment when needed. Without the aggressive treatment I do not think I would be a contributing member of society. The guidelines laid forth by ILADs make sense. They do not offer set in stone protocols, but options for physicians to use that have been researched carefully.

Please approve the Senate Bill to support our physicians as they seek to heal and educate their clients.

Sincerely,

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If you would like more info, or for me to testify, please contact me.