

To whom it may concern:

I was diagnosed with Lyme disease in 2011. I come from Lehigh Valley Pennsylvania (an area that is highly endemic for Lyme disease). The past 4 yrs have been an unimaginable nightmare. Before I was diagnosed with Lyme I was very active father of two heavily involved in residential drywall. I worked 50-70 hrs every week and also had a janitorial business on the side. I was the hardest worker most of my friends new.

Previous to 2011 I felt relatively healthy. Unbeknownst to me I apparently had a incubating or non symptomatic Lyme infection in the background that was causing fatigue and some extra shakiness/nervousness that I just shrugged off. I had been bit by ticks tons of times because of my active lifestyle and also had a family pet that would bring them inside. My dog Reuben was diagnosed with Lyme, went blind from it and subsequently died. So.. healthy until 2011 when I had some groin pain and a lump that the Urologist thought might be testicular cancer. After having that corrected and having a preventive hernia repair I went back to work after about a month off my feet.

6 months later I couldn't walk ten feet without a wheelchair and couldn't do stairs at all. I was having severe migraines, severe pain in both legs and terrible pain in my groin and abdomen. I went from doctor to doctor and hundreds of physical therapy appointments trying to get a handle on what was going on. My family doctor vowed to get to the bottom of it and after running a bunch of tests and doing research she diagnosed me clinically with Lyme disease. I tested positive for rickettsia which is another tick born infection and cdc negative for Lyme but had Lyme specific bands on the western blot. After I started getting treated things got much, much worse. I now needed a wheelchair in the house and spent most of my days in the bathtub or in bed. Since then it's been ups and downs of severe pain, fatigue, decreased quality of life, I'm now divorced and still seeing no light at the end of the tunnel. I am 32 and a father of a 6 and 8 yr old. I am writing this because I am in desperate need of medical and governmental movement on this debilitating illness that should be treated with similar rules and medical care as syphilis.

Thank you,
Dillon King