

My name is Mike Dewey. I was bitten by a tick in western Douglas County on June 6, 2013 while in performance of my duties as a Stewardship Forester for the Oregon Department of Forestry. I contracted Lyme disease from that tick bite. I was diagnosed with Lyme disease by a Medical Doctor in Roseburg and treated in accordance with OR IDSA guidelines, receiving the maximum recommended dosage of 28 days of antibiotics. I was not cured by this dosage. When I became sicker, my MD told me that even though I had two CDC positive Western Blot blood tests for Lyme disease, he couldn't treat me further because the treatment that would be required to cure me would be in excess of OR IDSA guidelines, and that if he prescribed that, he could get in trouble with his licensing board. Other Medical Doctors told me that because I'd already received the maximum recommended antibiotic dosage under OR IDSA guidelines, no further antibiotics could be prescribed for me. As an indication of the absurd and desperate nature of the reality that this situation imposes on Oregonians sick with Lyme disease; at one point, I sought and obtained antibiotics from a sympathetic veterinarian who referred to me in his chart notes as Clyde, a 200lb. Saint Bernard.

But I still became sicker and sicker, so sick that, among other debilitations, I couldn't speak in complete sentences, let alone perform the duties of my job. Until finally, I found a well informed Naturopathic Doctor that treated me in accordance with antibiotic dosage guidelines of the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society (ILADS). It took 8 weeks of intravenous antibiotics and 8 months of oral antibiotics at a cost to me of almost \$10,000, but, I am now cured. Had my Medical Doctor not been intimidated by his licensing board, he could have treated me much earlier in my illness with much less antibiotics, at a much lower cost to me, likely \$200-300.

In the course of my illness and treatment, I met many other Lyme disease infected Oregonians that were experiencing similar or worse health impairments than those that I experienced; every single one of them had been treated and not been cured by antibiotic dosing in accordance with OR IDSA guidelines. The resultant worse illness, that is the consequences of that failure to cure, imposed profoundly negative impacts to their lives, to their families and to the communities that they live in; as such, I respectfully submit to you that preventing these worse illnesses should be of paramount concern to you. I was astonished at the inability of the medical community to respond in an appropriate manner to prevent my illness from becoming worse-and it was preventable medically, as evidenced by my subsequent cure with antibiotic treatment in accordance with ILADS guidelines-but it wasn't preventable politically. Your passage of this Bill will greatly help to correct this inability; so please pass it; the preservation and, in the cases of those Oregonians currently ill with Lyme disease, the recovery, of the public's health are compromised without it.

Lastly, I offer to you that while this is a physician protection bill, more fundamentally, it is a human rights bill; however unlike other human rights legislation that have served to protect the rights of individual demographic groups, this legislation serves to protect the rights of all humans; the right of all Oregon humans to have a life crippling bacteria removed from their bodies. Currently in Oregon, dogs have this right more than do humans. Know that Oregonians deserve this right and that as with every other human rights legislation, history will show that there was no rational basis to oppose it.

Please, do the right thing; pass this legislation. Thank you.