

Honorable Senators

I have a concern regarding testimony in the hearing on Monday, March 30, for SB916.

An OMA representative stated that she was not aware of any negative actions taken against doctors for either treating Lyme with ILADS or for testifying before this committee about being threatened.

With all due respect, there is compelling evidence that the OMA representative's statement is misleading.

The myriad of Lyme patients who have sought care out of state speak with one voice in describing how physicians who attempt to treat them with ILADS type protocol are harassed and threatened. Such testimony included an Oregon State Police officer who has taken an oath to give the truth in public forums, and along with three nurses. My wife and I experienced this first-hand as well, doctors telling us they could no longer treat our daughter. Point of fact, one doctor called us at 10pm at night to let us know he had been approached by individuals who could limit his practice if he continued to treat our daughter. Subsequently, he no longer practices infectious disease medicine. Another doctor who treated our daughter also no longer practices infectious disease medicine.

As in our family experience, Oregon Lyme patients are traveling to multiple different states and multiple different out of state treating physicians and incurring all of the travel expenses involved without reimbursement, and this is not an insurance issue. Incurring this additional expense, which can be several thousand dollars per trip gives credibility to the Lyme patients that they are telling the truth.

Furthermore, Theresa has given testimony about talking directly to several specific physicians that they are fearful for their livelihoods if they attempt to treat or if they become whistle-blowers; they fear that OMB can effectively destroy their careers. She has also spoken with doctors who have been harassed for merely referring patients to out of state doctors.

A rational person has to conclude that the only reason Oregon physicians can't treat Oregon patients is because they're effectively prohibited from doing so.

Kind Regards

Marty Denham