

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 1, 2014

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As we all know, our state, along with many others, is suffering the effects of the insidious and expanding effects of Lyme disease. Over the past several years, we have been shocked to learn of the scope of suffering that is being borne by citizens whose illnesses are not properly and timely diagnosed; not treated or under treated; and who are forced to bear the entire financial burden of long-term diseases, putting themselves and their families, and indirectly, the rest of the state, in a threatening economic position.

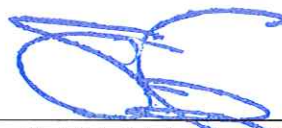
Several months ago, both chambers of the New York State Legislature unanimously passed a bill that offers one significant step forward in the journey to address Lyme disease in our state. The bill before you, S-7854/A7558-B, the *Patients' Rights - Doctor Protection Bill*, provides that the physicians who treat Lyme and the other tick-borne diseases according to medically recognized standards of care shall not be subjected to arbitrary and capricious investigations of their medical licenses by the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC). Because there is more than one medically recognized standard of care for Lyme disease, physicians should be enabled to use whichever evidence-based diagnostic and treatment options provide the best benefit to their patients.

As the United States Congress continues its efforts to improve federal research of Lyme and tick-borne disease, we look forward to working with your Administration to effectively battle this urgent public health issue. We appreciate your work on this issue, as well as your attention to this matter and we respectfully urge you to sign this legislation into law.

Sincerely,



Rep. Christopher P. Gibson (NY-19)



Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18)