Dear Honorable Senators of the Senate Committee on Health:

After years of endless symptoms for what seemed to be a ‘phantom’ disease, one new condition, Retinal Vein Occlusion, led me to suspect that I have Lyme Disease.

My Corvallis physician sincerely doubted that I could have Lyme, but offered to have me tested, and if positive, prescribe antibiotics. He clearly was not Lyme literate, so I decided to seek another opinion from Corvallis Naturopath, Beth Laurenson. She absolutely refused to consider Lyme as a possible diagnosis. I wrote her a letter when I was diagnosed, so she would know that Lyme, whether acquired in Oregon, or elsewhere, has local victims.

My Corvallis gynecologist said that if anyone knew how to diagnose and treat Lyme, it would be Dr. Newman, M.D., N.D., M.S.O.M. His practice is in Vancouver, WA. In December, 2012, he pronounced me Lyme positive, by clinical examination, and an IGeneX positive test, though not CDC positive.

My rough tally of Lyme related medical expenses, excluding Medicare and Samaritan Advantage is $13,000, out-of-pocket for 2014.

I appreciate your willingness to re-evaluate Lyme treatment in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Amy Lev