



THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

July 14, 2016

The Honorable Stanley C. Rosenberg
President of the Senate
Massachusetts State House, Room 332
Boston, MA 02133

Dear President Rosenberg,

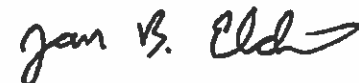
First, we would like to thank you for your leadership and time during this budget process and for your support of amendments including Lyme disease treatment coverage in the House Budget.

While we do not doubt that Governor Baker understands the importance of the crisis that we are currently facing in the Commonwealth relative to the epidemic of Lyme disease, we do think that the amendment which he proposed relative to this section of the budget has the potential to cause more harm than good by further limiting rather than expanding treatment coverage to those suffering. By limiting the type of physicians that are able to prescribe the covered treatment, we would be not only be eliminating first line of defense coverage such as PCPs and internists, but we would also be sending a message contrary to the Physician Protection Act by stating that the Legislature takes an opinion on types of medical treatment and the ways they are prescribed. This is something that should be determined by a patient and their licensed physician only.

It is for this reason that we respectfully ask that the Senate move to take up H.4491 in order to give the Membership the opportunity to reject this harmful amendment and reenact the language as presented by the Conference Committee.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration,


Anne M. Gohi
State Senator


James B. Eldridge
State Senator