

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Suite 126, Washington, DC 20003

October 30, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Welfare & Pensions
United States Senate
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

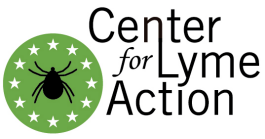
The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Welfare & Pensions
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Murray:

We are writing to support immediate passage S. 1657, the TICK Act, the Ticks: Identify, Control and Knockout Act. This important bipartisan legislation, introduced by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Tina Smith (D-MN), would significantly improve coordination at the Federal level and provide communities and states with resources for prevention, early detection, and treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases. Specifically, the legislation would:

- (1) Establish an Office of Oversight and Coordination at HHS, to develop a National Strategy to expand research and improve testing and treatment affordability to fight tick-borne diseases;
- (2) Reauthorize \$10 million per year over the next five years for Regional Centers of Excellence in Vector-Borne Disease. These Centers collaborate with academia and public health agencies for surveillance, prevention, outbreak response; and
- (3) Authorize \$20 million per year over the next five years in CDC Grants to States and communities across the country to raise awareness about Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, support early detection and diagnosis, and improve treatment.

Passage of S.1657, the TICK Act, is urgently needed. The overall number of Americans infected by Lyme and tick-borne diseases is rising and there is no end in sight. Last year, there were 450,000 cases of Lyme, a 1,400 percent increase from 2003. Additionally, Lyme disease costs our Nation more than \$75 billion per year, including direct medical costs and indirect costs such as loss of work. The cost of this bill is relatively small when compared to the total financial burden on Americans and, most importantly, patients with Lyme disease.



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We urge the Health, Education, Welfare and Pensions Committee join the effort to combat Lyme and other tick-borne diseases by passing S.1657, TICK Act, at your next full Committee markup on Thursday, October 31, 2019 and establish a firm and appropriate foundation to advance prevention, detection and treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases.

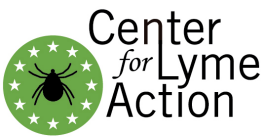
Sincerely,

[List of supporting organizations attached]

cc: The Honorable Susan Collins, United States Senator
The Honorable Tina Smith, United States Senator

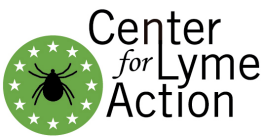
AR	Arkansas Bytes Back
AR	Arkansas Tick-borne Illness / Lyme Support
AR	Savethetick.com
AZ	Tony C. Silva, Producer/Director, The Monster Inside Me (Documentary)
AZ	Sharane Dorrah, Founder & Lyme Warrior, PESKYS Insect Repellant Clothing
AZ	Tammy Crawford, Founder and Executive Director, Focus on Lyme Foundation
CA	Michael Judson, Founder, Give2Lyme
CA	Robin Bridge, Admin/Facilitator, Nevada County Lyme Group (CA)
CA	Jody Hudson, CEO and Founder, Alex Hudson Lyme Foundation
CA	Kris, Newby, Author, BITTEN: The Secret History of Lyme disease
CA	Linda Giampa, Executive Director, Bay Area Lyme Foundation
CA	Phyllis Bedford, Executive Director, LymeLight Foundation
CA	Lorraine Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, LymeDisease.org
CA	Bonnie L. Crater, Co-Founder and Board Member, Center for Lyme Action
CA	Dr. Darin Ingels, ND, FAAEM, FMAPS, Fellow, Author, American Academy of Environmental Medicine
CA	Jody Hudson, CEO/Founder, Alex Hudson Lyme Foundation
CA	Dr. Jyotsna Shah, President & Laboratory Director, IgeneX
CA	Sudhir Shah, Business Advisor, IgeneX
CO	Colleen Nicholson, Founder, Military Lyme Support
CO	Heather Szerlong, PhD, Co-Founder & Board Member, Ticknology Laboratory & TBC United
CO	Monica White, President and Co-Founder, Colorado Tick-borne Disease Awareness Association
CO	Holiday Goodreau, Executive Director, LivLyme Foundation
CO	Olivia Goodreau, Founder, LivLyme Foundation
CO	Shawn Naylor, DO, CEO and President, Sound Clinic
CO	Andrew Marino, Mineral County Noxious Weed Manager, Mineral County Noxious Weed Department
CO	TickTracker APP
CO	Dan Salkeld, Research Scientist, Colorado State University
CT	Gregg Kirk, Founder, Ticked Off Foundation, Inc
CT	Karen Gaudian, Chair, Lyme Connection
CT	Sandy Berenbaum, LCSW, Family Connections Center for Counseling (CT)
CT	Rob Zajac, Patient/Advocates BLAST-trained educators
CT	Elena Ayala-Zajac, Patient/Advocates, BLAST-trained educators
CT	Dr. Roseann Capanna-Hodge, Dr Roseann and Associates, Lyme Connection
CT	Dr. Thomas Moorcroft, DO
CT	Dr. Lauren Lee Stone, PhD, Althea Health and Wellness
CT	Rayda K. Krell, PhD, Western Connecticut State University
CT	Eva Sapi, PhD, Professor, University of New Haven
DC	Bruce Alan Fries, President, Patient Centered Advocacy Group

DC	Eli Briggs, Senior Director of Govt Affairs, National Association of Government and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
FL	Kelsey Myers, National Sales Manager, Sawyer Products
FL	Melissa Bell, Esq., President, Florida Lyme Disease Association & Lyme Disease Challenge
GA	Karen Sherrill, Director, Georgia Lyme Disease Connection
GA	Karen Sherrill, Director, Southeast Lyme Disease Foundation
IA	Kent Larsen, Patient advocate/lobbyist, Iowa Lyme Law Committee
IN	Indiana Lyme Connect
KS	Judy Campbell, President, Lyme Association of Greater Kansas City
KY	Rita Pagan, Co-Founder, Bluegrass Lyme Support Group
KY	Vicki Petsy, President, Kentucky Lyme Disease Association
MA	Carolyn Salvi, Spectrum Health Solutions
MA	Nick Salvi, Spectrum Health Solutions
MA	Maria Malaguti, Founder & Executive Dir., Lyme Disease Resource Center Inc
MA	Darlene DiBara O'Connor, Co-Founder, Northeast Lyme and Associated Diseases Resource Foundation
MA	Michele Cloutier Miller, Co-Founder, Central Mass Lyme Foundation
MA	Brandi Dean, President and Founder, The Dean Center for Tick-borne Illness
MA	Dr. Elizabeth York, ND, Owner, Heritage Natural Health
MA	Dr. Uma Dhanabalan, MD, MPH, FAAFP, MRO, CMS, Uplifting Health & Wellness
MA	Dr. Stephen M. Rich, Professor of Microbiology, University of Mass., Amherst MA
MA	Laboratory of Medical Zoology, Amherst MA
MA	Dan Wolff, President, TickEase, Inc
MA/NY	Brandi Dean, Co-Founder, Ride Out Lyme, Inc
MD	Chris Stelzig, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Entomological Society of America & Vector-Borne Disease Network
MD	Ying Zhang, PhD, MD, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Health
ME	Julie Swain, Founder/Owner, No Fly Designs and Dog Not Gone
ME	Adina Bercowicz, Executive Director, LymeTV
ME	Yan Zelener, Director of Science, LymeTV
ME	Paula Jackson Jones, President and Co-Founder, Midcoast Lyme Disease Support & Education (MLDSE)
ME	Philip Hendricks, Lyme advocate and Owner, Gerrick Alternatives
ME	Ellen Hendricks, Lyme advocate and Owner, Gerrick Alternatives
ME	Dr. Deb Moskowitz, ND, Owner, Camden Whole Health
ME	Paula Goode, Advocate and Caregiver
ME	Walter Elwin, Patient Advocates/Caregiver MLDSE
ME	Janet Elwin Patient Advocates/Caregiver, MLDSE
ME	Julianne Forbes, ND, mainenaturopath.net
ME	Dr. Zev Myerowitz, Chief Consultant for Lyme Disease & Co-infections Deseret Biologics Myerowitz Chiropractic and Acupuncture Clinic
ME	Dr. Sarah Ackerly, ND, CPM, Northern Sun Family Health Care, The Birth Center at Northern Sun
ME	Dr. Sean McCloy, MD, MPH, MA, Integrative Health Center of Maine



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ME	Dr. Meryl Nass
ME	David Trahan, Executive Director, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine
ME	Bob Maurais, President, Mainely Ticks
ME	Claire Guy, LMT, Reflexologist-NBCR, Owner SoleWise School of Reflexology
ME	Sylvie Letellier, Reflexologist, Maine Council of Reflexology
MI	Katherine Freeark Zucker, Executive Director, Sideline Lyme
NC	Beth Carrison, Co-Founder, Tick-borne Conditions United
NC	Dr. R. Michael Roe, William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor, NC State University
NC	Jennifer Platt, DrPH, Co-Founder & CEO and Founder, Tick-borne Conditions United & Tick Warriors
NH	Nancy Borassa, Founder, NH - Lyme 411
NH	Kathie Fife, Founder, Get Ticked Off NH
NJ	Elizabeth Markonas, VP/Treasurer, John Drulle, MD Memorial Lyme Fund Inc
NJ	Lloyd Walling, VP/Secretary, John Drulle, MD Memorial Lyme Fund Inc
NY	Dana Parish, SonyATV singer, Songwriter, Author, Bay Area Lyme board member
NY	Dr. Kenneth B. Liegner, MD
NY	Robert C. Sabatino, Founder & Executive Director, Lyme Society, Inc
NY	Mary Beth Pfeiffer, Investigative Journalist, Author: Lyme, The First Epidemic of Climate Change
NY	David Skidmore, Author/Patient/Advocate, Lyme Loonies
NY	Gloria Kim, President and Co-Founder, Limiting Lyme
NY	Kathleen Wallace, Founder, Upstate NY Lyme Disease Association
NY	Mackay Rippey, Lac, Founder, Lyme Ninja Radio
NY	Bennett Nemser, Research Director, The Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation
NY	Jesse Ruben, Singer, Songwriter
NY	David Roth, Executive Committee Chair, Board of Directors, Project Lyme
NY	Maria Diuk-Wasser, Associate Professor, Dept. of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology, Columbia University
NY	Dr. Richard Horowitz, Hudson Healing Arts Center
NY	MSIDS Research Foundation
OH	NE Ohio Lyme Foundation
OH	Jeff Stauffer, President & CEO, thePLAN
OR	Theresa Denham, Founder/President, Oregon Lyme Disease Network
OR	Dr. Stephen Heppe, Vice President, Oregon Lyme Disease Network
OR	Mary Jane Heppe, Media Liaison, Oregon Lyme Disease Network
OR	Heidi Uecker, Portland Chapter Leader, Oregon Lyme Disease Network
OR	Colleen Witzel, Oregon Lyme Disease Network
PA	Carrie Perry, Founder & President, Sam's Spoons Foundation for Lyme Support & Education
PA	Lee Gordon, Montgomery County Regional Leader, PA Lyme Resource Network
PA	Doug Fearne, Founder, Lyme Disease Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc. / LymeBasics.org



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PA	Thomas W. Simmons, Professor Dept of Biology, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
RI	Lane Poor, Founder, LymeTimeInRI
RI	Jane Barrows, President, Lyme Newport
RI	Thomas Mather, Ph.D, Director & Professor of Public Health Entomology, Tick Encounter Resource Center, University of Rhode Island
TN	Chris Przybyszewski, Executive Vice President, U.S. Biologic, Inc
TX	Cindy Casey Holman, RN, Charles E. Holman Morgellons Disease Foundation
TX	Connie Straheim, Author/Patient Advocate, ConnieStrasheim.org
TX	Kristina Bauer, Texas Lyme Alliance
VA	Lyme Warrior Inc
VA	Jeff Crater, Co-Founder and Board Member, Center for Lyme Action
VT	Kristin Kassis, President, VTLYme.org
VT	Pat Banner, Vice President, VTLYme.org
VT	Jim Miller, Treasurer, VTLYme.org
VT	Rebecca Zellis, Founder, VTLYme.org
WA	Daniel Boeholt, Founder and Advocate, Ticked Off On Lyme
WI	Alicia Cashman, Coordinator, Madison Lyme Support Group
WV	Jena Whiston, Blogger/Advocate, A Broken Crayon