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10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 13, 2008

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The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health
2125 Rayburn
INSIDE MAIL

Dear Frank,

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I write to you today about the Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act (H.R. 741), bipartisan legislation introduced by Rep. Chris Smith pending consideration in the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. I strongly support H.R. 741 becoming public law, and added my name as a cosponsor to the bill in February of last year.

As chairman of the subcommittee on health, you have the opportunity to bring about real improvements in the Lyme community with respect to research and treatment for those suffering from this disease. Through increased education and awareness efforts about the threat of Lyme Disease, we can help to ensure people living in high risk areas know how to protect themselves and their children from ticks.

I have seen firsthand the devastation of this disease. Last week I held a Lyme Disease Forum in Loudoun County, Virginia, so my constituents could learn how to prevent Lyme from touching their families. Between 1999 and 2007, the number of reported cases of Lyme Disease in Loudoun increased from 29 to over 200 cases per year. There are entire nuclear families in my district with parents and children all suffering from chronic Lyme. Nearly 300 people took time out of their summer schedule to attend the forum. Many in attendance suffer from Bell's palsy, meningitis and other manifestations from Lyme Disease.

An expansion of federal efforts concerning the prevention, education, and research related to Lyme Disease including the establishment of a Lyme advisory committee as outlined in H.R. 741 could help so many.

I realize that your subcommittee has sole jurisdiction over Medicaid, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and other complex and high priority areas. Among the many health challenges we face, Lyme is one area where small preventative steps can make a huge

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difference. As a father of five and grandfather of 13, I constantly worry about deer, mice, and even family pets transporting ticks and transmitting Lyme Disease.

I respectfully ask that you report H.R. 741 out of committee when the House comes back into session on September 8.

Enclosed please find presentations made at the Lyme forum by public health officials from Loudoun and Fairfax counties which underscore the importance of aggressive federal efforts to address Lyme disease.

Thank you for your efforts to help.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:jp
enclosures

Roddy would appreciate
your help with this
Thank you