



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jen Metzger

Statement from Senator Metzger on Lyme Disease Funding

JEN METZGER April 5, 2019

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I strongly advocated for restoring the \$1 million in funding for prevention and treatment of Lyme disease, which was included in the Senate's one-house budget, and I was extremely disappointed that the funding was cut from the final budget. This issue is a personal one for me. I live an active, outdoor life, and I have been diagnosed with Lyme disease five times. The last time, I became ill so suddenly that I had to go to the emergency room, where the admitting nurse took one look at me, before I even spoke, and said "I hate Lyme." Even so, I

consider myself lucky: Many people are suffering with debilitating long-term effects of chronic lyme disease. Lyme disease is a terrible fact of life for anyone who spends time outdoors in the Hudson Valley and Catskills. Farmers and farm workers are particularly at risk, and as Chair of the Agriculture Committee, addressing this public health crisis is a top priority of mine. This budget decision was not the last word on this issue, and I will continue to fight for funding to prevent and treat this horrible disease."