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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



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December 1, 2014

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Re: S.7854/A.7558-B

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I write in response to your promise to the people of the Hudson Valley before the *Poughkeepsie Journal* editorial board where you stated that, "I want to sign the Lyme bill." This bill provides those suffering from Lyme disease access to the treatment that they need. Enclosed please find a copy of the referenced *Poughkeepsie Journal* article.

For the last two years, I have been fighting for my constituents in 41st Senate District to improve access to medical treatment for those suffering from Lyme and tick borne illnesses. Dutchess County had been considered ground zero for Lyme disease but cases have increased tremendously throughout New York State in the past decade. Unfortunately, treatment for those suffering from this illness has been stifled by the failure of New York State to allow access to all medical options. Doctors have often been investigated by insurers and licensing boards when trying to treat patients, due to the lack of a consensus surrounding treatment and diagnosis for chronic Lyme disease. I have attached several letters from doctors explaining this issue in greater detail.

This legislation would provide that the Office of Professional Medical Conduct could not deny, revoke, or suspend the license of a physician or discipline any physician who prescribes, administers, or dispenses long-term antibiotic therapy for a patient suffering from long-term Lyme disease. California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont have also all enacted similar legislation.

This bill would help our constituents by allowing their doctors to feel empowered to exercise their professional medical judgments regarding treatment without fear of an unwarranted

investigation and persecution. I respectfully request that you make good on your promise in the late October *Poughkeepsie Journal* interview and sign this needed legislation into law. By signing the bill, we will be providing those suffering from Lyme disease, their families and doctors something to be really thankful for this holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Gipson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "T" and "G".

Terry Gipson
Senator, 41st District

Enclosures