



MEDICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA Issue Backgrounder

Lyme Disease

MSV Talking Points

- » The Medical Society of Virginia traditionally has not supported legislation that defines and attempts to codify the standard of care.
- » Long-term antibiotic treatment for Lyme disease is controversial, as demonstrated in NIH studies. In addition to showing that long-term treatment is not effective after a certain point, studies have also shown that long-term treatment may pose serious risks for patients.
- » If legislation were passed, in the future should a physician, in accordance with his or her clinical judgment, choose not to render long-term care, such treatment decision could be called into question.
- » The Virginia Board of Medicine has never sanctioned a physician for prescribing long-term antibiotics for Lyme disease.
- » The Virginia Administrative Code, at 12-VAC-5-90-80 (A), already lists “Lyme disease” as a disease that must be reported to the Board of Health. Legislation requiring reporting would be duplicative of already existing law.

Please oppose

HB 36 – Del. Bob Marshall – Lyme Disease Reporting

HB 512 – Del. Tom Rust – Long-term antibiotic use for Lyme disease

HB 897 – Del. Barbara Comstock – Reporting and long-term antibiotic use

HB 1017 – Del. Tim Hugo – Reporting and long-term antibiotic use

HB 1288 – Del. Ken Plum – Reporting; establish registry

For more information, contact the Medical Society of Virginia’s government affairs department by phone at 804 | 343-1185, or visit the MSV Web site, www.msv.org/legislative.

