



# A Growing Health Threat in Northern Virginia.

With mountains of snow on the ground (and in the roads) it is hard to focus on the growing problem of Lyme disease. However, in Virginia alone, the number of confirmed cases of Lyme disease has doubled in the last two years, and some studies at the national level have estimated that Lyme disease costs our economy \$2 billion a year.

As the Springfield district supervisor, I made addressing this devastating disease a priority. Following a very well attended joint Town Hall Meeting with Congressman Wolf last July, I led efforts on the Board of Supervisors to address Lyme disease, including:

- Directing the County's Health Department to educate our local doctors and health professionals on the difficulty in diagnosing (rash appears in less than 50% of the cases and tests only have 65% sensitivity, missing 35% of culture proven cases of Lyme) and treating the disease. These efforts by the Health Department are underway.
- To fight the ticks which spread Lyme Disease, the County is piloting the 4 poster deer bait station which safely and cost effectively applies a tickicide to deer, killing the ticks that carry Lyme disease.

I worked with Delegates Hugo, Comstock, and Rust to have Virginia protect doctors' options to treat Lyme disease and provided testimony this month in support of their bill.

As your next Congressman, I will continue to work with Congressman Frank Wolf, a real leader in the fight against Lyme disease, to promote research, discussion, and the monitoring and tracking of victims by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

I am a supporter of the Lyme community as is shown in my record; I will continue to advocate on their behalf in Congress, and continue my efforts to minimize the affects of this devastating disease in our community.

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