

April 19, 2010

To whom it may concern,

I have been afflicted with CFS/ME for 15 years. I am one of the rare people that have been able to continue working while having this illness. I am a state government employee in Public Health. My position has given me access to very good healthcare. Prior to this position I was a full charge bookkeeper making twice the salary that I do now. I figured out early on that having a high stress job made my condition worse. If I had not changed this I firmly believe I would have been bed bound and fully disabled by now.

I also work with a great bunch of people that know what my limitations are and make the necessary accommodations for me. My co workers have witnessed what this disease does to people first hand. They have watched me come in every day for the last 10 years barely able to walk. These people are government officials in public health. They understand what this disease does to people. They have witnessed it on a daily basis.

This is not hysteria in any way shape or form. It amazes me that in the times of daily advances of medicine and industry, that a disease that mostly affects women, can still be assumed that it's origin is a mental disorder. It happened with Multiple Sclerosis, Epilepsy, and Parkinson's. Haven't we learned from the past errors? Testing was discovered for these diseases and the previous psychological connections were dismissed. In the meantime, how many people suffered and were treated inhumanely. Come on, it's 2010 enough is enough. Given the recent discovery of a retrovirus called XMRV and the possible connection with CFS. Now is not the time to end the CFSAC or cut the meeting time down. This is potentially a serious public health threat. Patients need help, not an It's all in your head diagnosis followed up with antidepressants that do nothing. When will diseases that primarily affect women start getting recognition in this country?

Robin Moulton