

Testimony

Leah Boven

My life was devastated, ruined by CFS 26 years ago. My only child, Matt, was just a little boy then. I could no longer work, take care of my dear son, have a social life. I could not longer read and comprehend, and had to quit my schooling. I can no longer drive or walk more than a block or 2 on a good day. No longer can I do any of the things I love. I am no longer productive. I can barely take care of my own physical needs. I live in poverty.

As the years passed, I've become completely isolated from family and friends. They do not know what is wrong with me, I am subject to ridicule. I haven't the strength to defend myself. This illness has taken my youth away. I am so sick, in so much pain--the physical pain and the grief for all I've lost. But I'm NOT depressed, I manage to remain pretty upbeat and still have some hope.

Please hear my cry for help. There are millions just like me, suffering & alone. We are asking for:

- studies on long term effect of this illness
- funding for new research
- more clinical trials
- extra funding for the five CFS Centers of Excellence in this country
- for XMRV to receive the same funding as HIV/AIDS
- mandatory CFS education for all physicians
- status updates on Ampligen

I, myself, and the CFSAC, are asking that these recommendations be read and answered by Sec. Sebelius.

Sincerely,
Leah Boven