

Testimony
Patricia Carter

Patricia Carter wrote:

My name is Patricia Carter. I became ill with ME/CFS suddenly on December 31, 1986, and this illness has cost me my life. At the time I suffered that first illness, the worst flu I've ever had in my life which never went away, I was a lawyer with a large company, earning a great six-figure income. I have now been totally disabled for thirteen years. I have watched while my government, in the form of the CDC, has lied to me and abused me for almost 25 years. They have misspent the money Congress allocated for the study of this illness, and still today they try to sweep this very real illness under the rug by calling it psychological.

The time for this kind of lies is over. There are far too many now suffering from this illness to be dismissed any longer by telling us we have a psychiatric problem. We know we have a real physical illness which is robbing us of our lives, while it robs our country of the myriad of contributions we might be making to our society if we were healthy. Continued obfuscation will not help, and it will no longer work. This giant of a patient population has now been awakened, and we will not rest until the true causes and treatments for this illness are found. We will no longer be silenced.

There is still time for the Department of Health and Human Services to remedy this tragic situation. Fund real research into the XMRV retrovirus. Let real scientists determine whether or not it is the cause of ME/CFS and how to treat it. Fund the five Centers of Excellence patients have been politely requesting for years. Stop the CDC's abuse of ME/CFS patients.

I am not a member of the CFIDS Association of America, and they do not speak for me. Do not think that you can buy my silence by whatever deals they make. They have done nothing for me for the last 24 years while I have suffered, and I know that they are not planning to do anything now. Do not be misled. They are not a patient organization; they speak for themselves, not patients.

ME/CFS patients, and their families, friends and government representatives are watching and waiting to see whether this is the start of a new era. I hope it is.

Patricia Carter