

Steven Sepe

From: Moira Hechenleitner <moirahechenleitner@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 23, 2025 5:02 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee; Rep. Baginski, Jacquelyn M.; policastrogroup@gmail.com
Subject: Support for Bill H-5351

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dr. Moira Hechenleitner. I'm a woman in her forties, living in Noank, Connecticut.

Two years ago I started suffering from acne and melasma. I initially sought help from a dermatologist located in CT who was able to help decrease the overt signs of acne. However, my face was going through a variety of other issues that were never acknowledged nor addressed.

At a time when the acne treatment was triggering terrible side effects I had the opportunity to meet Mary Polizzi. Saying that her help has been life changing is an understatement.

Her high level of expertise in her field is evident, but far more important than that is the amount of care and attention she puts in the work she does.

For the first time, I felt like a professional was listening to me. Where others had disregarded my description of the symptoms I was going through she paid close attention to each detail, connecting the dots for me and putting the pieces together, to provide an integrative, wholesome approach to healing my face.

Although my face doesn't suffer from a life threatening illness, the chronic conditions I have been experiencing have progressively diminished my mental health. From not wanting to leave my house with my face in its current state, to not being able to comfortably do my job, which involves public speaking and working one on one with people. Unfortunately, I believe that the impact that the face appearance has over mental health is underrated.

Having been helped by someone who acknowledged the gravity of each of these conditions, empathized with what I was going through and set realistic expectations, while also providing hope, I know understand that the symptoms I'm going through won't necessarily be permanent. Although healing will take time, thanks to her care and expertise now I know that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Mary Polizzi's work is changing lives and her profession is crucial to the wellbeing of people like me, who suffer from face conditions that although not life threatening, affect self-esteem and mental health. I hope she continues to do her job and help others like me for many years to come.

Kind regards,

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