

PE1463/OO

Thyroid Change Email of 17 February 2014

Mr David Stewart MSP
Convenor
Public Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr. Stewart:

This letter is in support of, "PE01463: Effective thyroid and adrenal testing, diagnosis and treatment," and provides international evidence of that support.

ThyroidChange is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of treatment for thyroid patients worldwide. The current treatment emphasizes the use of one lab test (TSH) and one treatment (levothyroxine). Many patients are left undiagnosed or undertreated by this treatment and improve with extended labs and various T3 containing treatment.

Currently, we host a petition on Change.org (<http://www.change.org/petitions/endocrinologists-patients-with-thyroid-dysfunction-demand-better-care>) which has united 16,500 individuals and the number and increases daily. We have been featured in the Wall Street Journal (<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424127887324635904578644532652110970>) and we will continue to work to change what is considered effective treatment in hypothyroidism.

We believe that Scotland has the opportunity to be a world leader in this area. Research is emerging and supporting our patient experience. This failure to properly diagnose and treat thyroid disease has serious impact on the individual and their community. We encourage the Scottish government to continue to investigate and you will clearly see the issues facing the individual thyroid patient.

Sincerely,

Michelle T. Bickford
President and Co-Founder
Thyroid Change