

PETITION

Menstrual Toxic Shock Syndrome (mTSS) is a life threatening multi-systemic illness caused by a release of toxins (mTSST-1) from overgrowth of Staph Aureus bacteria that is released into the bloodstream. This toxin invades the body through microscopic abrasions that contaminate the bloodstream and quickly begin to shut down organs. Once toxins are reach the bloodstream, it overstimulates the immune system where it cannot defend or protect the body. It is a complication that often results from tampon use. MTSS has been around for over 45 years and has never been dealt with. It is not discussed and because of this women are still living with organ damage, loss of limbs, cancer, infertility, and the greatest tragedy – DEATH. All of this is preventable through education. Knowing this, I ask myself, “Why haven’t we educated women about this?” It must begin now especially in our school system where it is not only prevalent, but they are the highest risk group. Although mTSS is not preventable with tampon use, the horrific outcomes and death are 100% preventable.

The Bill, “Madalyn’s Law” has been introduced to our state government two years ago. It is here that it sits on a desk not being read or discussed. With yearly mTSS education in health classes for grades 5-12, students will be taught the signs and symptoms. They will know that when they get sick and are using a tampon or recently used a tampon it is not just the stomach bug or flu. It is often that the

ER misdiagnoses mTSS for the stomach bug or the flu and patients are sent home!!!! Since mTSS travels extremely quickly through the bloodstream and shuts organs down, symptoms worsen every minute you are not treated. Having a 90% misdiagnosis, time is not on your side. If people are educated with the signs and symptoms, they can self advocate, speak up, demand to be tested, and save their lives. If diagnosed in the early stage a simple antibiotic will treat and cure the patient. These women will be blessed to live out their lives and fulfill their dreams because something as simple as mTSS education just saved their life.

So many have been permanently, emotionally, and physically injured or needlessly died due to lack of education. Families have suffered and been ruined by tragedy senselessly. My family and daughter are one of them. My daughter became ill on her 19th birthday. All signs resembled the stomach bug so she rested the next day. We were going to the doctor in the morning. I tried to get her up to go to the doctor but she didn't recognize me. I called for help but by the time they arrived Maddy had died in my arms at home. In 36 hours her life was taken because mTSS was never taught in school health classes. The correlation between tampon and illness was never made. Had it been taught we would have recognized the signs and symptoms immediately, went to the hospital, and Maddy would be with us today.

“Madalyn’s Law” is an educational bill that will create that awareness and finally end all of this senseless and needless injury and death. Please help support “Madalyn’s Law” by signing this petition to let our legislators know you want our Governor to please sign this bill into law so others may live. Education has and will save lives.