

May 24, 2021

To: House Consumer Affairs Committee  
Re: 5G legislation testimony

My name is Alexia McKnight and I am a resident in Chadds Ford Pennsylvania. I have a biochemistry and a veterinary medical degree, after which I specialized in radiology. I have been a radiologist for 18 years and well understand the effects of ionizing radiation. As a profession we take radiation seriously and respect the damage it can do with excessive exposure. Before my plight that led me to understand the biological effects of non-ionizing radiation from wireless devices, neither I or my profession were aware of the significant damage it can do. We were not trained in the effects of wireless radiation. Any of you that are remotely contemplating legislation to increase more small cell 5G antennas in our state are clearly not aware either. Allow me to share what it's like.

Imagine you've had a headache here and there throughout the years. Maybe you've tossed and turned at bed every now and again, or held some aches and pains, or had a bad mood, or forgot where your keys are. These things happen, but you get through. Now imagine one day, all of a sudden you get bad headaches all day every day. You are completely unable to sleep—tossing and turning for eight straight hours, every night. You're wired, yet exhausted, unable to relax. Your abdomen hurts, your joints and muscles ache, you are in a foul mood—irritable, agitated, snappy, and fatigued. You feel entirely miserable from head to toe. This continues every single day. As time progresses, your memory fails, your cognition fails. It is no longer possible to concentrate. The ability to read is gone. Your heart stops beating normally, so much so that you get light headed. I know this to be true, because this is what happened to me. It was disabling. The progression from healthy adulthood to debilitation happened suddenly, as soon as and as long as the electric utility placed a wireless device on the outside of my home.

After the better part of a week of this and barely functioning, I left to sleep in the yard. This is December of 2016. The weather was cold enough to see my breathe, but out there in a sleeping bag inside a little sailboat parked in the back yard, I could fall asleep and stay asleep. Though not an ideal solution, it worked.

When the offending wireless device was finally removed, the symptoms I experienced inside my home resolved. Some weeks later, the arrhythmia returned, the headaches returned, the insomnia returned, and unbeknownst to me the wireless meter had returned. Upon removing it a second time, the symptoms in the house resolved yet again. The sudden onset of symptoms correlated exactly when the meter was on, and resolution of symptoms when the meter was removed, both times. This was instrumental in determining cause. We've been tied up in the courts for several years since trying to prevent a re-deployment. I had three physicians testify to the harm the wireless smart meter caused me, and an ALJ judge that ruled replacing that same smart meter back on the house would not be safe.

Prior to the deployment of that wireless device on my home, I lived a normal life. I used to get pain in my ear if I held a cell phone to my head. My hand and arm would sting up to my elbow if I touched an iPad, I'd get some headaches traveling along interstate 95, but this degree of electromagnetic illness was manageable. I used speaker phone instead, I didn't use the iPad, and the headaches while traveling were mostly transient. We can compare that to getting a sniffly nose for somebody allergic to pollen, in stark contrast to a full blown asthma attack and unable to breathe. After months of smart meter exposure, my electromagnetic illness progressed. I could no longer go to church, I could not visit most friends or family, I could not travel for work or pleasure. I could not attend my kids' school or athletic functions. I could not enjoy restaurants, concerts, public gatherings, family trips. I could not drive or ride in a new

vehicle. If I did any of those activities, there was always some degree of suffering, sometimes I'd be bedridden. My entire family, kids and husband were and still are affected by my electromagnetic illness. However, in electrically clean environments—one with no wireless RF radiation, no electric fields, no magnetic fields and no high frequency transients, I have no symptoms.

The mechanisms of injury are not my goal in this testimony. They have been fully documented for decades, and are readily available by investigating. This is how I realized I was not the only one who was debilitated by wireless radiation and other electromagnetic fields—investigating, researching, and studying. Not ignoring, not denying.

The electric utilities, the telecommunications industry, and the PA PUC are no strangers to the onslaught of legal suits as a result of negative and unintended sequela to wireless technologies. I know this to be true, as my family has been one of many hundreds of legal cases brought forth in the PUC court, simply to seek the ability to live life and be safe in our own homes. Industry's business model benefits from denying and ignoring the injuries, but legislators are better positioned to put forth higher moral fortitude to protect Pennsylvanians, and themselves.

In the same way that I have not experienced an asthma attack, or an anaphylactic reaction to penicillin or pollen or peanuts, I recognize many other people do. I would never deny or ignore their condition. I would also certainly never willfully expose an asthmatic to smoke knowing they won't be able to breath soon, or give peanuts or penicillin to somebody who tells me they get serious immune reactions. As you may not (yet) have experienced headaches, insomnia, pains, memory loss, cognition impairment, depression, other mood changes, and cardiac arrhythmias from wireless technologies, you can offer the same courtesy to me and the 3-5%, (growing to 40%) of the population that does by allowing the rollout of safer technologies.

There are other options to expanding the 5G network for high speed internet, such as FTTP (fiber to the premise). It's safer, faster, and more reliable. Fiber optics are necessarily expanded to support the 5G towers anyway. Install the fiber right to the premise, and the problem is solved.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexia L. McKnight". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alexia McKnight  
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