

I graduated from nursing school and specialized in pediatric nursing. I did clinical pediatrics for almost 7 years and then started having my own children – 3- as a matter of fact – 2 have full body eczema also known as atopic dermatitis. So I am here for 2 reasons – Chele and Zach.

Nothing, absolutely nothing in nursing school or the pediatric clinical arena prepared me for the disease atopic dermatitis. The pain, the rash, the chronic itching of the rash, infections and sleepless nights all took a toll on the entire family – with Chele and Zach only having to start a new day with the same rash, itch and pain as well as ridicule for their appearance. They heard names like “walking scab,” “disease girl,” and many more. They were not included in their peers’ social activities because of their appearance. They became withdrawn.

My children are older now and still fight the constant battle of atopic dermatitis. I am thankful for the topical immunomodulators like Elidel and Protopic. These drugs are the first treatment to offer my children an effective alternative to oral and topical steroids. We all are familiar with the adverse

side effects of long term steroid use. My children have a better quality of life because topical immunomodulators provide effective relief from the constant itch and discomfort.

Other children deserve the same opportunity. I urge this committee to weigh all evidence very carefully before taking action.