

## **Introduction of Congressman Christopher Smith (NJ-4) by LDA President at Lyme Conference**

Late night TV and other media often make jokes about New Jersey. I like to think good things come from NJ and are sometimes well kept secrets.

I have the great pleasure now to introduce someone I've known and worked with for 26 years. The work and support he has provided for Lyme disease has been consistent and productive.

He is an amazing man, compassionate, ethical, and devoted to his family and his work, which has enriched the lives of individuals not only in the US, but also around the world. He has traveled to other countries to retrieve children being withheld from parents, and I recollect, once even went to a war zone to help rescue a number of children and bring them back home.

Those who know me, know I say what I think, and I think he is one of the finest individuals I have been fortunate to work with in my lifetime and a friend to Lyme patients everywhere-- I give you the Co-Chair of the US House of Representatives Lyme Caucus, and Chair of the House Foreign Relations Africa, Global Health and Human Rights Sub Committee. He comes to us from DC by way of the United Nations in New York, since he was recently appointed by the President as a member of US Delegation to the UN, and been meeting there all week. A true friend who drove directly here today, even after being stuck behind a car fire on 95 driving down to Philadelphia from New York, the honorable, Congressman Christopher H. Smith (NJ).