
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 510 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY EMRICK, JOZWIAK, BARRAR, BENNINGHOFF, BERNSTINE,
BIZZARRO, BOBACK, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, DIGIROLAMO, FREEMAN,
HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL, HILL-EVANS, KIM, KORTZ,
LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MIHALEK, MILLARD, B. MILLER, MURT,
READSHAW, RYAN, SAYLOR, SONNEY AND YOUNGBLOOD,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 9, 2019, as "PANS/PANDAS Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania and recognizing the need to raise awareness of
3 pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome and pediatric
4 autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with
5 streptococcal infections.

6 WHEREAS, Pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome
7 (PANS) and pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders
8 associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS) create the
9 sudden onset of obsessive-compulsive disorder in children,
10 causing previously healthy and emotionally adjusted children to
11 experience severe anxiety and emotional disturbances; and

12 WHEREAS, Children with PANS and PANDAS tend to manifest
13 symptoms, including, but not limited to, tics or other abnormal
14 movements, severe separation anxiety, generalized anxiety,
15 irritability, aggression, personality changes, ADHD, marked
16 deterioration in learning and school performance, extreme
17 oversensitivity of the five senses, sleep disturbances and

1 developmental regression, including deterioration in
2 handwriting; and

3 WHEREAS, PANS is broader than PANDAS as PANS includes
4 disorders associated with a preceding infection such as
5 mycoplasma pneumoniae, mononucleosis, Lyme disease and viruses,
6 the bacterial immunity to antibiotics and acute-onset
7 noninfectious triggers to environmental factors and metabolic
8 dysfunctions; and

9 WHEREAS, Treatment plans for PANDAS should be similar to
10 those for PANS; and

11 WHEREAS, Children with PANS and PANDAS may experience
12 moderate to dramatic improvement with antibiotics, intravenous
13 immunoglobulin treatment or plasmapheresis; and

14 WHEREAS, Researchers at the National Institute of Mental
15 Health are currently engaged in extensive research and testing
16 on how to effectively treat PANS and PANDAS; and

17 WHEREAS, PANS and PANDAS are commonly misdiagnosed because
18 symptoms are mistaken for behavioral problems or rebellious
19 developmental stages; and

20 WHEREAS, It is estimated that PANS and PANDAS affect
21 approximately 1 out of every 200 children in the United States
22 and could become as common as pediatric cancer and pediatric
23 diabetes; and

24 WHEREAS, Educating the public is imperative in order to
25 increase awareness of PANS and PANDAS and continue to expand
26 research of these serious health disorders; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate October
28 9, 2019, as "PANS/PANDAS Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania and
29 recognize the need to raise awareness for pediatric acute-onset
30 neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) and pediatric autoimmune

1 neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal
2 infections (PANDAS); and be it further
3 RESOLVED, That educating the public, educators, medical
4 professionals and parents and guardians is imperative to arm
5 individuals who care for children experiencing PANS and PANDAS
6 with the knowledge to advocate for improving the health care of
7 children affected by these disorders.