
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 169 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, BROWNE, KEARNEY, FONTANA, J. WARD, KANE,
SANTARSIERO, HUGHES, BARTOLOTTA, MENSCH, MUTH AND COSTA,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 9, 2021, as "PANS/PANDAS Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome
4 (PANS) and pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders
5 associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS) are childhood
6 conditions characterized by the appearance of obsessive-
7 compulsive disorder (OCD), tic disorders and other symptoms; and

8 WHEREAS, Symptoms identified with PANS/PANDAS include motor
9 and vocal tics and personality and behavioral changes such as
10 ADHD, separation anxiety, mood changes, aggression and
11 irritability, eating disorders, sleep disturbance, enuresis and
12 deterioration in motor and cognitive abilities; and

13 WHEREAS, The onset of symptoms is sudden and dramatic; and

14 WHEREAS, The National Institute of Mental Health is currently
15 conducting research relating to PANS/PANDAS and more effective
16 treatment options; and

17 WHEREAS, Current research suggests a possibility in PANDAS

1 cases that antibodies produced in response to streptococcal
2 infections attack basal ganglia, the area of the brain
3 associated with movement and behavior; and

4 WHEREAS, With no currently approved lab tests or medical
5 consensus on diagnosis and treatment, clinicians rely on
6 clinical criteria and their own subjective judgment in making a
7 diagnosis; and

8 WHEREAS, The PANDAS Network, a nonprofit organization that
9 raises awareness of PANS/PANDAS, estimates that as many as 1 in
10 200 children may have PANS/PANDAS in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Treatment options for children are the same as for
12 OCD and tic disorders, including cognitive behavioral therapy
13 and anti-obsessional medications, with antibiotics and
14 intravenous immunoglobulin also sometimes used; and

15 WHEREAS, Increased attention on PANS/PANDAS among the public
16 and medical community can encourage increased support for
17 further research and greater awareness by medical professionals;
18 therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate October 9, 2021, as
20 "PANS/PANDAS Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate commend parents, advocacy
22 organizations and health professionals working to improve the
23 awareness and treatment of PANS/PANDAS in their communities.