
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 191 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, EICHELBERGER, FONTANA, FARNESE,
GREENLEAF, BREWSTER, AUMENT, RAFFERTY AND HUGHES,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 9, 2017, as "PANDAS Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders
4 associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS) describes the
5 appearance of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), tic disorders
6 and other symptoms in children following a streptococcal
7 infection; and

8 WHEREAS, Symptoms identified with PANDAS include motor and
9 vocal tics and personality and behavioral changes such as ADHD,
10 separation anxiety, mood changes, aggression and irritability,
11 eating disorders, sleep disturbance, enuresis and deterioration
12 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 PANDAS and more effective
16 treatment options; and

17 WHEREAS, Current research suggests a possibility that

1 antibodies produced in response to streptococcal infections
2 attack basal ganglia, the area of the brain associated with
3 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
7 diagnosing it; and

8 WHEREAS, The PANDAS Network, a nonprofit organization that
9 raises awareness of PANDAS, estimates that as many as 1 in 200
10 children may have 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 PANDAS among the public and
16 medical community can encourage increased support for further
17 research and greater awareness by medical professionals;
18 therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate October 9, 2017, as
20 "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 PANDAS in their communities.