



2013 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 50

September 16, 2013 - Introduced by Senators LAZICH, LASSA, L. TAYLOR, SHILLING and VINEHOUT, cosponsored by Representatives STONE, BERNIER and KOLSTE. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming October 9, 2013, as PANDAS, PITAND, and PANS
2 Awareness Day.
3 Whereas, PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders
4 Associated with Streptococcal Infections) is the sudden onset of
5 obsessive-compulsive disorder, often displayed as severe anxiety and emotional
6 disturbances, plus two or more of the following symptoms: tics or other abnormal
7 movements, severe separation anxiety, generalized anxiety, irritability, emotional
8 lability, aggression, personality changes, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder,
9 inability to concentrate, sensory sensitivities, deterioration in learning abilities and
10 school performance, developmental and age regression (including deterioration in
11 handwriting), sleep and nighttime difficulties, or urinary frequency or daytime or
12 nighttime secondary enuresis; and
13 Whereas, the onset of symptoms corresponds to an infection, usually strep; and

1 Whereas, PANDAS children may have moderate to dramatic improvement
2 with antibiotics within one week of treatment; however, further intervention may be
3 needed; and

4 Whereas, how to stop the entire syndrome is still debated, but many parents
5 and doctors report prolonged (two months to one year) antibiotic and intravenous
6 immunoglobulin treatment or plasmapheresis have beneficial effects; and

7 Whereas, PITAND (Pediatric Infection-Triggered Autoimmune
8 Neuropsychiatric Disorders) is similar to PANDAS in terms of presentation;
9 however, it consists of a broader list of possible triggers, not only strep, which may
10 include mycoplasma pneumonia, mononucleosis, Lyme disease, viruses, vaccine
11 injury, and more; and

12 Whereas, PANS (Pediatric Acute-Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome) is a new
13 classification introduced in the 2012 research paper “From Research Subgroup to
14 Clinical Syndrome: Modifying the PANDAS Criteria to Describe PANS”; and

15 Whereas, PANS is broader than PANDAS and PITAND, including not only
16 disorders associated with a preceding infection, but also acute-onset non-infectious
17 triggers, such as environmental and metabolic triggers; and

18 Whereas, no treatment plan for this syndrome has been defined, but treatment
19 plans similar to those for PANDAS should be attempted; and

20 Whereas, the three criteria for PANS are: abrupt, dramatic onset of
21 obsessive-compulsive disorder or severely restricted food intake; concurrent
22 presence of additional neuropsychiatric symptoms, with similarly severe and acute
23 onset; and that the symptoms are not better explained by a known neurological or
24 medical disorder; and

1 Whereas, PANDAS, PITAND, and PANS remain frequently misdiagnosed,
2 undiagnosed, and undertreated due to the lack of awareness of these disorders on the
3 part of the public and even the medical community; and

4 Whereas, a conservative estimate of the prevalence of PANDAS and PANS
5 cases in the United States alone is 162,000; however, the true prevalence of PANDAS
6 and PANS is not known; and

7 Whereas, PANDAS and PANS are likely as common as illnesses like pediatric
8 cancer, pediatric diabetes, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and can seriously affect
9 the healthy outcome of a child's life; and

10 Whereas, approximately 500,000 children have been diagnosed with
11 obsessive-compulsive disorder in the United States and roughly 148,000 children
12 have been diagnosed with Tourette syndrome in the United States, and

13 Whereas, PANDAS Network.org, founded in 2009, is a nonprofit organization
14 that raises awareness of PANDAS onset and course of illness by providing an ongoing
15 database of new PANDAS cases (over 1,000 tracked thus far), parent referrals to
16 support groups and physicians, a conduit for new researchers to navigate
17 collaborations and for new treating physicians to find the latest research, and
18 information that is medically accurate and reviewed by the organization's scientific
19 advisory board; and

20 Whereas, the Wisconsin PANDAS and PANS parent support group strives to
21 build public awareness of PANDAS, PITAND, and PANS, provide ongoing family
22 support, and gather and disseminate resources to families affected by the disorder;
23 and

