



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 131 ♦ Stevenson, Maryland 21153 ♦ mota.memberlodge.org

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 475

Title: Health Insurance – Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders - Coverage

Hearing Date: February 26, 2020

Position: Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *Senate Bill 475 – Health Insurance – Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders – Coverage*. This bill would require coverage of pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome in Medicaid and State-regulated commercial plans.

Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) and Pediatric Acute Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) are autoimmune neuropsychiatric conditions that affect children suddenly following an infection, including streptococcal (strep throat) infections. Children with PANDAS and PANS most often show symptoms related to both behavioral and physical health, including changes in mood, obsessive behaviors, separation anxiety, and changes in motor skills such as handwriting.

As health care practitioners working with children in both community and education settings, we know first-hand that it is critical to promptly treat health conditions when they occur. When PANDAS and PANS are not properly diagnosed and treated, a child’s condition may exacerbate over time even if the child is receiving other health services from a mental health provider or occupational therapist to treat the symptoms.

MOTA supports this bill to ensure children with PANDAS and PANS can access effective treatments, including intravenous immunoglobulin therapy.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Rachael Faulkner at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or (410) 693-4000.