

Senator Delores Kelley
Chair, Maryland Senate Finance Committee
Miller **Senate** Office Building
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Kelley and Members of the Committee:

I am writing regarding SB 475, a bill concerning coverage for Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders.

I was a nurse for IV and critical care patients for 15 years before having the honor of working for the top doctor in this field, where I now assist in the treatment of children with PANDAS and PANS. I also had my own son, at age 11, suddenly wake up one day debilitated with OCD, and thanks to the doctor I now work for, who is a leading expert in this field, he has been PANDAS-free for years.

There is a huge injustice being done to the child with PANDAS today.

Strep and staph have been around forever. They were responsible for plaques in past history. They still coexist with us. And so does other bacteria and viral antagonists. We have known for years in the medical community that infection can make people have psychiatric symptoms: elderly people with UTIs, people with septic symptoms, and others. Why can't we recognize childhood communicable diseases can do the same?

In these children, the immune system goes into overdrive, produces too many antigens, and they attack the brain and cause swelling, otherwise described as autoimmune encephalitis. In fact, PANDAS is a cute little acronym to sum up what autoimmune encephalitis really is.

We can treat and save these children by addressing their autoimmune disorders. These children suffer complications from simple childhood illnesses, easily treatable, and yet have so much difficulty receiving proper medical care.

Please require insurance companies to pay for the care of these children so that doctors will be able to administer proper care and treatment.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Glover, RN
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