

# **HJM** HARRIS JONES & MALONE

2423 MARYLAND AVENUE

SUITE 100

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21218

LISA HARRIS JONES

DIRECT DIAL: (410) 366-1500

FAX NUMBER: (410) 366-1501

[lisa.jones@mdlobbyist.com](mailto:lisa.jones@mdlobbyist.com)

March 24, 2022

The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our client Genentech, we write in support of House Bill 820, which is corrective legislation that removes a limiting restriction on one specific treatment for Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders (PANDAs). The original legislation to promote coverage for PANDAs treatment was passed by the General Assembly in the 2020 Legislative Session and, due to the abbreviated nature of that Session, this single drug-specific limitation was added through amendment.

HB820 is a technical fix to the current PANDAs coverage statutes that will ensure fair and equitable access to all available treatment options, as prescribed by a treating prescriber. Currently, there are no FDA-approved treatments for PANDAs, so it is essential that the decision for treatment be between the treating practitioner and the patient/caregiver. The original statute was intended to allow for coverage for all available treatment options, as prescribed, and this technical fix will help avoid confusion as to what is eligible for coverage.

Given how quickly treatment options evolve and science advances, it is bad precedent to name specific medications in statute when coverage is intended to refer to all appropriate therapeutic options. We urge the Committee's favorable consideration of this corrective legislation which passed the House unanimously and without amendment.