

HB820_Carr_Fav(Senate).pdf

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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Sponsor Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 820
Health Insurance - Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders -
Modification of Coverage Requirements

March 24, 2022

House Bill 820 expands the treatment options for PANDAS or PANS, autoimmune diseases that affect children.

Coverage of PANDAS/PANS treatment has been the subject of a number of bills that have been considered in recent years by EHEA and HGO committees. HB 820 builds on the landmark Chapter 560 of 2020.

It is primarily a corrective bill to remove amendment language that was added to the original legislation that passed in the last days of our abbreviated session that year.

The bill removes language that explicitly excludes one brand name medication Rituxin from coverage for the treatment of PANDAS or PANS.

Rituxin has increasingly been demonstrated to be effective in the treatment of autoimmune conditions like PANDAS and PANS.

The language in current law restricts just this one single medication, creating an arbitrary limitation in treatment, and this corrective bill would give patients and practitioners access to the full toolbox of treatments for these conditions.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report.

HB820 - HJM Testimony in Support .pdf

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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.