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Montgomery County

Health and Government Operations  
Committee

*Subcommittees*

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Health Occupations and  
Long-Term Care

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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.