
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 239 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY T. DAVIS, JOZWIAK, DONAHUE, McNEILL, HILL-EVANS,
GIRAL, SANCHEZ, KHAN, HADDOCK, GREEN AND DALEY,
OCTOBER 16, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, OCTOBER 16, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 9, 2023, as "PANDAS Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania to inform and bring greater awareness of
3 Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated
4 with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) to the general public
5 and medical community.

6 WHEREAS, Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders
7 Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) is a term used
8 to describe a subset of children who have obsessive-compulsive
9 disorder (OCD) or tic disorder symptoms following a
10 streptococcal infection, such as strep throat; and

11 WHEREAS, Children experience a sudden and dramatic onset of
12 symptoms that include motor or vocal tics and other personality
13 and behavioral changes, including ADHD symptoms, separation
14 anxiety, mood changes, aggression and irritability, eating
15 disorders, sleep disturbance, enuresis and deterioration in
16 motor and cognitive abilities; and

17 WHEREAS, Children with PANDAS exhibit an episodic course of
18 symptoms, which involve a sudden onset or worsening of symptoms,
19 followed by a slow and gradual improvement; and

1 WHEREAS, The exact cause of this disorder is unknown, but
2 researchers are pursuing a theory that the antibodies produced
3 during a streptococcal infection mistakenly attack a part of the
4 brain called the basal ganglia, which is responsible for
5 movement and behavior; and

6 WHEREAS, PANDAS is often misdiagnosed and mistreated due to
7 limited knowledge and awareness of the disorder among the
8 general public and medical community; and

9 WHEREAS, Given that there are currently no approved lab tests
10 or consensus on the diagnosis and treatment of PANDAS,
11 clinicians must use clinical diagnostic criteria and subjective
12 judgment; and

13 WHEREAS, Treatment options for children suffering from PANDAS
14 are the same for the standard treatment of OCD and tic
15 disorders, including cognitive behavioral therapy and anti-
16 obsessional medications, but antibiotics and intravenous
17 immunoglobulin may also be used; and

18 WHEREAS, The PANDAS Network, a nonprofit organization that
19 raises awareness of PANDAS, estimates that as many as 1 in 200
20 children have PANDAS in the United States, although the true
21 prevalence of the disorder is unknown; and

22 WHEREAS, Researchers at the National Institute of Mental
23 Health are currently conducting research on the cause of the
24 disorder and more effective treatment for children, but PANDAS
25 remains the subject of much debate and controversy; and

26 WHEREAS, It is evident that greater awareness of PANDAS is
27 necessary in the medical community in order to encourage
28 research on this life-altering disorder and more must be done to
29 increase awareness activities at the national, State and local
30 levels; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate October
2 9, 2023, as "PANDAS Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend parents,
5 advocacy organizations and health professionals dedicated to
6 improving the diagnosis and treatment of children with PANDAS in
7 their local communities.