

1 SJR69
2 191533-2
3 By Senator Ward
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 15-FEB-18

1 SJR69

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4 ENROLLED, SJR69,

5 RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 9, 2018, AS PANDAS AWARENESS DAY
6 IN ALABAMA.

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8 WHEREAS, pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric
9 syndrome (PANS) and pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric
10 disorder associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS)
11 create the sudden onset of obsessive-compulsive disorder in
12 children, causing previously health and emotionally adjusted
13 children to experience severe anxiety and emotional
14 disturbances; and

15 WHEREAS, children with PANS and PANDAS tend to
16 manifest some of the following symptoms: tics or other
17 abnormal movements, severe separation anxiety, generalized
18 anxiety, irritability, aggression, personalty changes,
19 attention deficit hyperactive disorder, marked deterioration
20 in learning and school performance, and developmental
21 regression, including regression in handwriting; and

22 WHEREAS, children with PANS and PANDAS may
23 experience a moderate to dramatic improvement with
24 antibiotics, intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) treatment, or
25 plasmapheresis; and

1 WHEREAS, researchers at the National Institute of
2 Mental Health (NIMH) are currently engaged in extensive
3 research and testing on how to effectively treat PANS and
4 PANDAS; and

5 WHEREAS, researchers at Moleculera Labs at the
6 University of Oklahoma have developed PANS and PANDAS blood
7 testing procedures; and

8 WHEREAS, the University of Arizona and Banner Health
9 System in Arizona have opened the first Centers for
10 Post-Infectious Autoimmune Encephalopathy, providing
11 insurance-based access to expert care and consultative
12 services for general and subspecialist pediatricians around
13 the country; and

14 WHEREAS, the medical and bioscience resources in
15 Alabama make our state well situated to meaningfully
16 contribute to best medical practices, research, and medical
17 technology to advance the early diagnosis and treatment of
18 children with PANS and PANDAS; and

19 WHEREAS, the NIMH estimates one in 200 children have
20 PANS or PANDAS, meaning these diseases affect roughly 15,000
21 children in Alabama; and

22 WHEREAS, many general pediatricians, nurse
23 practitioners, and pediatric subspecialists are not familiar
24 with the most current diagnostic criteria and treatment
25 guidelines for these disorders; and

1 WHEREAS, in addition to lack of access to treatment
2 providers, many insurers do not cover treatment for PANS and
3 PANDAS, which can cost many tens of thousands of dollars,
4 placing it out of reach for most families; and

5 WHEREAS, the Southeastern PANS/PANDAS Association
6 (SEPPA) is a Georgia-based nonprofit organization dedicated to
7 expanding access to expert, insurance-based care for children
8 and families suffering from PANS and PANDAS in this region;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, it is imperative that there be greater
11 public awareness of this serious health issue among parents,
12 policy makers, and medical providers in Alabama; now
13 therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
15 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize October 9, 2018,
16 as PANDA Awareness Day in Alabama.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the
18 Senate is authorized and directed to make appropriate copies
19 of this resolution available for distribution to the public
20 and the press.

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR69
Senate 22-FEB-18
I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint Resolution
originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Adopted: 01-MAR-18

By: Senator Ward