

## Senate Resolution 893

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Parent of the 42nd, Butler of the 55th, Davenport of the 44th, Unterman of the 45th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 9, 2018, as PANDAS Awareness Day at the state capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) and pediatric  
4 autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorder associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS)  
5 create the sudden onset of obsessive-compulsive disorder in children, causing previously  
6 healthy and emotionally adjusted children to experience severe anxiety and emotional  
7 disturbances; and

8 WHEREAS, children with PANS and PANDAS tend to manifest some of the following  
9 symptoms: tics or other abnormal movements, severe separation anxiety, generalized anxiety,  
10 irritability, aggression, personality changes, attention deficit hyperactive disorder, marked  
11 deterioration in learning and school performance, and developmental regression, including  
12 regression in handwriting; and

13 WHEREAS, children with PANS and PANDAS may experience a moderate to dramatic  
14 improvement with antibiotics, intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) treatment, or  
15 plasmapheresis; and

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

19 WHEREAS, researchers at Moleculera Labs at the University of Oklahoma have developed  
20 PANS and PANDAS blood testing procedures; and

21 WHEREAS, the University of Arizona and Banner Health System in Arizona have opened  
22 the first Centers for Post-Infectious Autoimmune Encephalopathy, providing insurance based

23 access to expert care and consultative services for general and subspecialist pediatricians  
24 around the country; and

25 WHEREAS, the deep medical and bioscience resources in Georgia make our state well  
26 situated to meaningfully contribute to best medical practices, research, and medical  
27 technology to advance the early diagnosis and treatment of children with PANS and  
28 PANDAS; and

29 WHEREAS, the NIMH estimates one in 200 children have PANS or PANDAS, meaning  
30 these diseases affect roughly 20,000 children in Georgia; and

31 WHEREAS, many general pediatricians, nurse practitioners, and pediatric subspecialists are  
32 not familiar with the most current diagnostic criteria and treatment guidelines for these  
33 disorders; and

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

37 WHEREAS, the Southeastern PANS/PANDAS Association (SEPPA) is a Georgia based  
38 nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding access to expert, insurance based care for  
39 children and families suffering from PANS and PANDAS in this region; and

40 WHEREAS, it is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious health issue  
41 among parents, policy makers, and medical providers in Georgia.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
43 recognize October 9, 2018, as PANDAS Awareness Day at the state capitol.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
45 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
46 press.