

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27
BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE, REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF
3 INSURANCE CONSULT WITH INSURANCE INDUSTRY LEADERS TO DETERMINE HOW
4 TO MAKE MEDICALLY NECESSARY IVIG TREATMENT FOR PANDAS/PANS AVAILABLE
5 TO IDAHO CHILDREN NOT CURRENTLY COVERED BY MEDICAID OR A COMMERCIAL
6 INSURER ALREADY PROVIDING COVERAGE, AND RECOGNIZING PANDAS/PANS AWARE-
7 NESS DAY.

8 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

9 WHEREAS, pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated
10 with streptococcal infection (PANDAS) and pediatric acute-onset neuropsy-
11 chiatric syndrome (PANS) involve a misdirected autoimmune process that
12 affects or weakens the blood-brain barrier in children; and

13 WHEREAS, children afflicted with PANDAS or PANS display sudden, dra-
14 matic changes in personality manifesting as obsessive compulsive disorder
15 together with accompanying symptoms following a strep, bacterial, or viral
16 infection. Accompanying symptoms may include tics, intense fear or anxiety,
17 depression, behavioral regression, deterioration in school performance,
18 sensory sensitivities, severely restricted food intake, and more; and

19 WHEREAS, it is estimated that at least 1 in 200 children in the United
20 States, including more than 2,000 children in Idaho, are affected by PANDAS
21 or PANS; and

22 WHEREAS, PANDAS or PANS is as common as pediatric cancer and pediatric
23 diabetes and can seriously affect health outcomes in a child's life to in-
24 clude life long mental illness, brain damage, and/or suicide; and

25 WHEREAS, established standards of care for treatment of PANDAS or PANS
26 include antibiotics, steroids, intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG), plasma-
27 pheresis, cognitive behavioral therapy, and anti-inflammatory medications
28 and such treatments are utilized based on the needs of the child and the
29 severity of an individual case; and

30 WHEREAS, other states have established legislative precedent for IVIG
31 coverage, including but not limited to Illinois, Delaware, Arkansas, Min-
32 nesota, New Hampshire, Indiana, Maryland, Kansas, and Rhode Island; and

33 WHEREAS, while Medicaid and other select insurers cover IVIG treatment,
34 families who aren't on one of the select plans that already provide coverage
35 are frequently unable to pay for IVIG when insurance declines to provide cov-
36 erage; and

37 WHEREAS, Idaho's administrative rules currently permit insurance com-
38 panies to deny coverage for IVIG when the treatment has been deemed medically
39 necessary by a healthcare provider; and

40 WHEREAS, Idaho medical providers treating this population are not able
41 to present this treatment option to families whose child would benefit be-
42 cause of the likelihood of insurance denial and inability for the family to
43 pay privately the thousands of dollars it would cost out of pocket; and

1 WHEREAS, a change in the administrative rules and in the practice of in-
2 surance companies could make necessary medical treatment more accessible to
3 the approximately 400 Idaho children who require IVIG and who are otherwise
4 covered under private insurance plans; and

5 WHEREAS, the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature in its Second Regular ses-
6 sion recognized October 9, 2022, as PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day in Idaho.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
8 sion of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
9 and the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature requests that the
10 Department of Insurance consult with leaders in the insurance industry to
11 determine how to make medically necessary IVIG treatment available to all
12 Idaho children who are insured.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that the Depart-
14 ment of Insurance collect data and ascertain the costs for including this
15 benefit in private insurance plans and, further, that the Department of In-
16 surance determine any impact on the Idaho General Fund for the addition of
17 this benefit.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that the Depart-
19 ment of Insurance and leaders in the insurance industry report their find-
20 ings and recommendations, if any, to the First Regular Session of the Sixty-
21 eighth Idaho Legislature.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the
23 House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that October 9,
24 2024, be recognized in the State of Idaho as PANDA/PANS Awareness Day.