IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING PANDAS/PANS AWARENESS DAY.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, it is estimated that at least 1 in 200 children in the United States, including more than 2,000 children in Idaho, are affected by PAN-DAS/PANS; and

WHEREAS, children with PANDAS/PANS can often go undiagnosed or be misdiagnosed or undertreated. PANDAS/PANS is likely as common as pediatric cancer and pediatric diabetes and can seriously affect health outcomes in a child's life; and

WHEREAS, established standards of care for treatment of PANDAS/PANS include antibiotics, steroids, intravenous immunoglobulin, plasmapheresis, cognitive behavioral therapy, and anti-inflammatory medications and are utilized based on the needs of the child and the severity of an individual case; and

WHEREAS, greater public awareness of this health issue is imperative to improve timely diagnosis and access to treatment so that health outcomes for affected children may be improved; and

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2021, Governor Little issued a proclamation recognizing October 9, 2021, as PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day in Idaho, which proclamation directly inspired this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that October 9, 2022, be recognized in the State of Idaho as PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes and honors the patients and families affected by PANDAS/PANS and the practitioners who assist them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages the Department of Health and Welfare, in cooperation with the State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, and school districts, to ensure accurate information about PANDAS/PANS is readily accessible to Idaho families by col-

- laborating with an established PANDAS/PANS nonprofit organization on educational materials.